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A new line for charity's miracle-worker

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Drastic cut in MPs' vote on leader

Hague plans bigger say for rank-and-file

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

WILLIAM HAGUE is preparing to take on the Conservative old guard and give demoralised grassroots Tories a far bigger say in leadership elections and policy-making than had been expected.

Rank-and-file members who have never had a voice before could wield more than a third of the votes in a new electoral college to choose the leader. Peers and MEPs could be given similar clout for the first time, leaving the once all-powerful Westminster contingent in a minority.

Constituency chairmen are also expected to get a vote on policy at the party conference for the first time, but Central Office is likely to break the local autonomy on selection of candidates in an attempt to avoid any repeat of the Neil Hamilton debacle.

The changes are being put forward by Archie Norman, the Tory vice-chairman who has been charged with reviving the moribund party machine. He has uncovered a much bigger crisis than had been realised: the party organisation is now so demoralised that it covers barely 30 per cent of the country.

That collapse means that only a quarter of the 400,000 registered party members are expected to take part in the referendum to endorse Mr Hague as leader and his proposed reforms. Many ballot papers have been returned marked "left the party" or "deceased".

One senior strategist said of the broken morale: "The new intake of MPs is aware of it."

Candidates who lost seats we should have won are also aware of it. The troops who sloggled around the streets every night during the campaign are acutely aware of it. The only ones who are not are those who are sitting inside the citadel of Westminster.

He was referring to some senior members of the 1922 Committee executive, which sets the rules for the leadership contest, who have resisted any change that would dilute their power.

Mr Hague is therefore ready for a fight over the reforms and has embarked on a tour of the country to try to generate support for his ideas and secure endorsement of his leadership. "These are essential changes that have got to be done now," he said. "If people say to me you cannot make it more open, you are not allowed to consult members, then I don't think leading it (the party) would be a very good idea."

Mr Hague has been criticised by opponents who say that he has been ineffective so far and lacks a vision to take on Tony Blair. Many backbench critics have argued that he has placed too much emphasis on party organisation and ignored the quest for a "big idea" such as the privatisation that was a hallmark of the Thatcher era.

But supporters are relaxed about attacks on his leadership by people such as Alan Clark, who has secured a place on the 1922 executive on his return to the Commons as MP for Kensington and Chelsea.

One said: "It is not only policy that matters. The reforms will help the policy debate." Another Hague aide said: "There is opposition to the changes from some wings of the party. It is best we have the debate."

Grassroots activists had expected only a 20 per cent share of the electoral college being advocated by Mr Norman. But Robin Hodgson, the chairman of the National Union — the voluntary wing of the party, said that would look "a bit light", and more than half of the 164 Tory MPs concede that the share should be bigger. Mr Hodgson said that party members were not in a mood to be fobbed off. "There has got to be change throughout the party."

Mr Norman, the MP for Tunbridge Wells who was appointed vice-chairman responsible for party organisation after transforming the fortunes of the Asda supermarket chain, declined to comment last night on how he thinks the vote should be apportioned within the electoral college. Nor will any figures appear in the paper to be presented to the party conference: it will be published only when the entire reforms are agreed.

Mr Norman said: "The leadership rules are in the gift of the 1922 Committee. It is important to present the proposals as a package. Only when people can see exactly what is on offer — and their implications for the party — will they be able to judge how far we can go."



Cherie Booth: says people of modest means and great talent cannot be kept out

Cherie Booth urges Bar to open door for less well-off

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

CHERIE BOOTH, QC, is urging the Bar to take action to prevent the profession becoming the preserve of the wealthy and privileged few who can afford to seek entry.

The Prime Minister's wife, who rose to be a leading barrister and part-time judge from a working-class Liverpool background, says the profession must, as a priority, take steps to help the less well-off. "I feel very strongly about this," she said. "It is a tragedy that people from backgrounds such as my own are now finding it difficult to enter the profession."

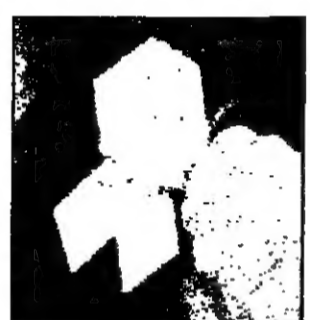
Ms Booth was speaking in her role as chair of this year's Bar conference, the annual convention of the 8,000-strong private practice profession which meets this Saturday.

Access to the profession was a key issue as it gears up for the millennium, she said. Both the Bar Council and Inns of Court were concerned and some steps had been taken. Individual sets of chambers also now funded students through their pupillage year in chambers. "That is important. The time is well past when we can expect young men and women to come to the Bar and spend a year in chambers with no income."

But, Ms Booth said, more needed to be done. Otherwise there was a "real danger that people of modest means and great talent will be put off from coming to the Bar — and that is something we as a profession have to address". More resources by the profession needed to be put into funding students through their training, as City law firms did, she said, to attract the best graduates.

Ms Booth's comments come as the Bar is preparing to

receive a report on financing young entrants to the Bar by a former Bar chairman, Peter Goldsmith, QC. The issue of financing was also closely linked to that of numbers entering the profession: at present, many who embark on the vocational course do not obtain training places in chambers and even fewer then obtain permanent seats in chambers. The Bar had to address the issue of selection



The breast cancer campaign ribbon

A pale pink ribbon worn by Cherie Booth, QC, to promote awareness of breast cancer. She was launching a campaign yesterday on behalf of the charity Breast Cancer Care.

Cancer detection, page 6

and then of how to fund those selected, Mr Goldsmith said. Phillip Sycamore, president of the society, said: "Lack of money can be an almost insurmountable obstacle to many hoping to enter the profession. It would be a tragedy if future generations of lawyers came only from affluent backgrounds."

Attracting the best, page 33

Mr Speaker Thomas dies at 88

VISCOUNT TONY PANDY, the former Speaker whose cry of "order, order" in the first radio broadcasts from the Commons brought him a fame unthought of by his predecessors, died yesterday. He was 88.

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Josie Russell at identity parade

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

JOSIE RUSSELL has attended an identity parade to try to pick out the man who left her for dead after killing her mother and six-year-old sister in a woodland hammer attack.

Josie, 10, was driven by her father, Dr Shaun Russell, to a special suite at Rainham police station, Kent, for the parade, which involved a 37-year-old man who was questioned earlier this year about the murders. It is not known whether she identified anyone.

The unemployed 37-year-old from Gillingham, who is facing charges of burglary and intimidation of three witnesses, was released from prison to police custody on Friday but yesterday Medway magistrates remanded him back to prison for five days. He was arrested after an appeal on the BBC television *Crimewatch* programme and

questioned about the murders of Lin and Megan Russell as well as an attack on an elderly special constable in 1976.

Modern identification suites are designed so that witnesses no longer have to walk along a line and confront suspects if they are afraid of the situation is very sensitive. They can stand behind one-way mirrors to view the line up or watch a video of the people in the parade. According to the Crown Prosecution Service, witnesses as young as three have given evidence in this way.

Mrs Russell, 45, and her daughters were attacked in a lane at Chilenden, Kent, in July last year.

In July this year, the police revealed that Josie had regained the power of speech and was able to describe what had happened.

Scottish Labour faces purge

Philip Webster, Political Editor

STRINGENT action to clean up Labour's image in Scotland after a series of sleaze allegations will be ordered by party leaders tomorrow.

Four Glasgow city councillors are to be expelled from the Labour group and a further five, including Pat Lally, the Lord Provost, suspended after a damning internal inquiry.

The lengthy investigation, carried out by members of Labour's ruling executive and Lesley Quinn, the party's senior officer in Scotland, found a general acceptance of "poor standards of behaviour".

The report is to be considered tomorrow by the National Executive Council at its pre-conference meeting. Labour officials will portray tomorrow's decisions as evidence of Tony Blair's determination to root out sleaze.

Mandelson hits out at Ashdown

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

PETER MANDELSON has fuelled the row over links between Labour and the Liberal Democrats by accusing Paddy Ashdown of pandering to his own party by attacking Gordon Brown's spending plans.

In an astonishing attack on the Liberal Democrat leader, the Minister without Portfolio suggests that Mr Ashdown has gone out of his way to criticise Labour in order to appeal to members who are sceptical about closer co-operation between the two parties.

Writing in *The Times* today Mr Mandelson urges Mr Ashdown to drop his constant sniping about Labour's health and education budgets and work in a spirit of greater co-operation. The comments reflect the Prime Minister's own frustration over Mr Ashdown's "oppositionitis" and

his unwillingness to take the tough choices over spending which Labour took to gain power.

Mr Mandelson, one of Tony Blair's closest allies, accuses Mr Ashdown of playing a "dangerous game" of personally supporting closer collaboration, but publicly opposing Labour's decision to keep to Tony's spending plans. He argues that Mr Ashdown is quite happy about having a taste of power by sitting on a joint Cabinet committee but wary of taking on his own party.

"No doubt Paddy Ashdown's attacks will continue this week — he feels they are necessary in order to secure his fundamental objective. But it is a dangerous game," says Mr Mandelson. "If he is serious about working with

Continued on page 2, col 1

Edwina Currie closes book on her marriage

By Shirley English and Nicholas Watt



EDWINA CURRIE, one of the Tories' most flamboyant and outspoken ministers, announced yesterday that she was separating from her husband after 25 years of marriage.

In a statement from her London solicitors, the former MP said they were parting "with immediate effect". She added: "The parting is amicable and no other party is involved."

Mrs Currie, 50, who was in Edinburgh promoting her third novel, *She's Leaving Home*, said she and her husband Ray, 52, an accountant and training specialist, had decided some time ago to separate but had no plans to divorce. Their daughters Debbie, 22, and Susannah, 20,

had been told and they understood, she said. "There is nobody else involved. It would be easier in some ways if there was, but there is not. It is harder when you realise you have just grown apart, your life has gone in different directions, your interests, your passions, your hopes no longer chime," she added.

Mrs Currie explained that the couple had been living separate lives — she in a flat in Clapham and he in their family home at Fildern, South Derbyshire. She said there was no single reason for the break-up, but said that last year Mr Currie had left Arthur Andersen, where he had worked all his life, to set up his own business in Derbyshire. Then in the general election Mrs Currie lost her parliamentary seat in Derbyshire South. "Lovely as Derbyshire is, I did not want

to live there any longer," she said. Listing the activities she enjoyed in London — theatre, concerts and book launches — she said: "None of the things I want to do come up in Derbyshire. I am not ready to settle down in the country."

Mrs Currie was first elected to Parliament in 1983 where her flair for publicity ensured that she became a junior minister within three years. But her ministerial career came to an end in 1988 when as junior health minister she declared that most British egg production was infected with salmonella.

Mrs Currie once recalled how she met her husband at a Christmas party in 1969 when he was with a blonde woman. "I told him: 'I thought you could do better than that.' 'Like who?' he asked. 'Like me,' I said."

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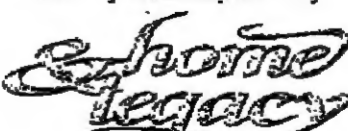
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Trimble plots to discredit Adams at talks

Unionist assault aims to establish Sinn Fein's links with IRA, reports Martin Fletcher

LEADERS of the Ulster Unionist Party will use their historic first encounter with Gerry Adams at Stormont today to try to demolish Sinn Fein's claims to be a legitimate political party instead of a terrorist front.

David Trimble and his delegation are expected to take hours to present what sources last night described as a "damning and comprehensive dossier proving beyond any reasonable doubt that Sinn Fein is the IRA and the IRA is Sinn Fein".

Their goal is to make it impossible for the British and Irish governments lightly to dismiss the UUP's demand for Sinn Fein's expulsion from the talks after the IRA's recent disavowal of the Mitchell principles of democracy and non-violence.

That disavowal came just two days after Mr Adams, the Sinn Fein

president, had solemnly committed his party to those principles. He claimed Sinn Fein and the IRA were separate organisations.

UUP researchers have scoured books, back copies of the republican newspaper *An Phoblacht* (Republican News) and other archives for evidence. The extent of their work suggests commentators may have been premature in dismissing the call by the UUP for expulsion as a ploy to give it political cover for entering into negotiations with republicans.

Mr Trimble has repeatedly stated that he would confront, not negotiate with, Sinn Fein when he becomes the first Unionist leader since Ireland's partition to meet his

Sinn Fein counterpart face to face at the Stormont buildings. The two governments have spent many months cooing Sinn Fein to the negotiating table and will almost certainly reject the UUP's demand, but the dossier will make it harder for them to do so without driving away the Unionists.

While the media are focused on today's encounter, talks officials say the key question is whether the UUP will attend subsequent meetings.

A senior UUP source said that after 27 years of violence there was copious evidence linking Sinn Fein and the IRA. "If it requires a week to prosecute our case then we will take a week," he said. "I don't think we will be able to be deterred by one

glib answer. Ulster Unionists actually believe in what they're doing. It's not a gimmick. They are not playing. There's an element of determination in their approach and they will be quite clinical in what they do."

The UUP's evidence is expected to include excerpts from a four-part BBC documentary called *Provos: The IRA and Sinn Fein* beginning tonight.

Sean MacStiofain, a former IRA chief of staff, unequivocally tells Peter Taylor, the presenter, that Mr Adams belonged to the IRA. Mr Taylor has also discovered Mr Adams's only known admission that he was an IRA member in a column he wrote for the Republican

News in 1976 under the pen name "Brownie".

A Sinn Fein spokesman said Mr Adams may choose to respond today by "very robustly challenging the Unionists and loyalists on their record of using force, or threats of force, even signing up to the Mitchell principles".

Mr Trimble aroused much adverse comment last week by marching into Stormont with the political representatives of the loyalist paramilitary Ulster Volunteer Force and Ulster Defence Association by his side.

All parties were "coming into the talks with a lot of baggage," said the Sinn Fein spokesman. "The best thing to do is to try to set that

baggage aside and look to the future."

The spokesman said Mr Adams would try to engage Mr Trimble directly, but the UUP leader is expected to direct all his comments to the chairman, George Mitchell, and to avoid even shaking hands with Mr Adams or his Sinn Fein colleague, Martin McGuinness.

One of Mr Trimble's fellow UUP MPs, William Thompson, said yesterday that his party would have no contact at all with Sinn Fein. The Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the rival Democratic Unionist Party, is planning a province-wide campaign against Unionist involvement with republicans. "It is fundamentally flawed to engage with Sinn Fein-IRA because you automatically legitimise a terrorist organisation," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Setback for Irish candidate

The Irish presidential candidate Adli Roche suffered a campaign setback yesterday when former workers at a charity she founded launched a group to lobby against her. The 13 protesters accused Ms Roche, who is favourite to win next month's election, of running the Chernobyl Children's Project "like an iron-fisted Stalin".

Ms Roche, who is promising to be a caring successor to the retiring president, Mary Robinson, said that she was the subject of a personal vendetta. The allegations being made against her were "extremely hurtful" but she would not be "bullied out of the race".

Murder suspects face DNA tests

One hundred suspects are to undergo DNA testing in the hunt for the killer of Barbara Mayo, a 24-year-old teacher found battered, raped and strangled near the M1 27 years ago.

Derbyshire police reopened the murder investigation after forensic scientists put together a profile of the killer from a scrap of the victim's clothing found at the scene. If the tests prove negative more suspects will be brought in for testing.

Fifth Whitehall PR director to go

The purge of senior Whitehall directors of information by ministers who wish to sharpen policy presentation has claimed a fifth casualty.

Steve Reardon, 50, who has been director of information at the Department of Social Security for ten years, was told last week that the Social Security Secretary wanted a change of style. It is understood Mr Reardon was told that Harriet Harman had lost confidence in him.

Two questioned on MI5 fugitive

Two men were arrested on suspicion of having helped David Shayler, the fugitive former MI5 officer who is wanted for questioning about a possible breach of the Official Secrets Act.

A 29-year-old man was arrested in Norwich and another, aged 31, in Notting Hill, West London. Both were released on bail after being questioned over allegations about the transfer of money overseas.

Birt attacks Hollywood fees

John Birt, Director-General of the BBC, said he would not bow down to television actors and screenwriters trying to charge "Hollywood fees" for their work.

His remarks, made at the Royal Television Society conference in Cambridge, followed a speech earlier this year by scriptwriters Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran, who accused the BBC of stranglehold by refusing to pay decent rates.

Service to restart on crash line

Train services are expected to resume today on the line in Southall, West London, where a train crashed on Friday, killing six passengers. As the wrecked train was taken away for closer examination by safety investigators, concerns were expressed over reports that the train's automatic warning system, which sounds an alarm in the driver's cab, was not working.

Leading article and Letters, page 19

Kinnock calls for driving bans to be Europe-wide

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

NEIL KINNOCK, the European Commissioner for Transport, yesterday called for cuts in drink-drive limits as part of plans to remove drunk drivers from the roads. He said that he also strongly supported a proposed convention on a system for enforcing EU-wide driving bans.

Mr Kinnock hopes to begin discussions on an EU alcohol level at a transport ministers' council in December. He attacked the "appalling" accident rate caused by alcohol but rejected suggestions that the EU should set the alcohol level at close to zero, as is the case in Sweden.

Some member states might oppose this, he said. "I would rather make progress towards a reduction than see ministers block any further reduction." Mr Kinnock, a former Labour Party leader, said the British Government backed his proposals for EU-wide bans.

He is planning laws setting a drink limit of 50 milligrams of alcohol per litre of blood, well below Britain's drink-drive limit of 80 mg and lower than in eight other EU states. The measure would be just part of a crackdown on motorists who drink and drive or who commit serious speeding offences.

Laws to ensure that driving bans imposed in one state will apply in another could be ready by December. European legislation was proposed when it was found that motorists banned in one state could sit a new test in another without declaring that they were banned.

German drivers were discovered coming to Britain in large numbers to exploit the loophole in European law, while Britons convicted on the Continent are given their licence on leaving to return home, apparently with a clean licence. Now a driver banned

in one state will be banned in all 15 member countries.

Under the law, the state which imposes the ban must notify the driver's home authorities. These must then enforce a similar ban or impose a penalty that would be locally required for the same offence. The action would be automatic for a list of offences including dangerous driving, hit-and-run, drunk driving and breaking speed limits.

Mr Kinnock believes that the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, will increase intolerance of accidents caused by drink-driving or speeding, spurring member states to accept the tougher alcohol blood limit. "All the data shows a big drop in deaths if you bring the limit down," his spokeswoman said.

Brussels has promoted plans for mutual recognition of penalties since the 1980s, but these had long run into opposition over differing penal practices and national sensitivities over jurisdiction. Officials from the 15 member states have now broadly agreed on rules that clear the legal obstacles.

The convention allows states to impose a shorter disqualification if local law dictates. A country may refuse to disqualify a driver only if the action which prompted the penalty does not constitute an offence in the country of residence. Still at issue is whether countries can increase the ban. This has been prompted by the situation in Austria, which imposes no disqualification longer than a month.

Britain has yet to give formal approval to the plan but officials say the Government has voiced no objection to the draft, which is being heavily promoted by Luxembourg, the current holder of the EU presidency.



Immersed in party publicity: Simon Hughes in the Liberal Democrat conference pool yesterday

It takes one to tango at party time

For the political sketchwriter returning to Britain from abroad, it is at first a struggle to get things back out of proportion. Nothing achieves this faster than attendance at a Liberal Democrat conference.

Here in Eastbourne, the trivial becomes grave, the laughable is greeted with a straight face and the obvious studiously ignored. It is a dream world in which little can astonish.

Nobody raised an eyebrow when the opening debate yesterday afternoon on "Safety in public transport" coming as it did within days of a terrible train crash, focused on the need to provide adequate lighting on station platforms and to guard female passengers against sex pests.

All Liberals can recognise a light switch. Some know about sex pests. Few under-



stand signalling circuitry. So the focus was unsurprising. But even I was not prepared to encounter an MP in orange boxer shorts, holding a length of flexible blue plastic piping between his legs, up to his neck in a swimming pool and dancing to a tango played on a poolside ghetto-blaster, with press photographers in attendance and two journalists taking notes.

Simon Hughes (Southwark North & Bermondsey) is a good-hearted and hard-working MP with an eye for publicity. Few who witnessed it can forget his appearance at a Bournemouth conference dressed in green Lycra cycling shorts, to publicise bicycle

lanes and himself. Hardened photographers are haunted by the memory of Mr Hughes, at the Glasgow conference last year, rolling down the steps of the office of a French cultural attaché, dressed in a black bin-liner and wearing a skull mask, to draw attention to French nuclear tests in the Pacific, and himself.

So maybe we should have anticipated his arrival at an event listed in the conference guide as "Chartered Society of Physiotherapy: Who can hydrotherapy help? Visit and learn more — or bring your gear and take part. Swimming

pool. The Grand Hotel." Delegates of all shapes and sizes joined a Gadarene rush into the pool to dance.

They were instructed by a shapely aquatic physiotherapist to twirl around, hold hands in a ring and bob up and down to a taped rumba, to torpedo from the waves like porpoises and then to "march" through the water in an exaggerated stride. "March! March!" she yelled. "Left, right, left, right." Liberal Democrats practised this with vigour: the closest some are likely to come to a military display, but rendered acceptable on account of being performed under water.

Late as ever, Simon Hughes arrived. The trunks were Day-Glo and labelled "Speedo", and he was holding in his turn. Hughes entered the pool for one-to-one tuition, executing a stately breaststroke. The

instructress held him while he performed a frog motion with his legs. A portable cassette-player thumped out some Latin rhythms.

Then an attendant threw in a section of thick blue plastic tube, a few feet long, for exercises. Perhaps misunderstanding his instructions, Mr Hughes pulled it between his thighs, creating a strange effect. His researcher rushed anxiously to the poolside to advise against this manoeuvre. The photographers closed in.

Some days ago your sketchwriter was swinging from a length of monkey-ropes in the Amazon and wondering how to readjust to the normality of British politics as a working journalist. I now realise this will not be necessary.

Conference, page 9

Ashdown attacked by Mandelson

Continued from page 1 Labour, he should learn two important lessons. First parties which slip into "oppositionitis", making invalid criticisms and promising painless profligacy are not seen by the public as credible, and not trusted with government. The public rewards leaders who have the courage to take on their party and lead them to new ground.

Mr Mandelson's surprising onslaught was prompted by a

decision by Mr Ashdown and several senior Liberal Democrat MPs to turn their attack on Labour after signs of a party backlash over talk of coalitions. MPs and delegates are suspicious about the joint Cabinet Committee set up by the Prime Minister and are sceptical that it will deliver on the constitution and PR.

Yesterday Malcolm Bruce derided the Chancellor's spending plans, criticising the party's "something for nothing" economics. "It's not good enough just to have your hearts in the right place. Put your money in the right place, too," he said.

However, Mr Ashdown told BBC Radio 4's Today programme: "We have proved a more effective Opposition to the Government on things like their failure to invest in health and education and yet have more of our agenda on the business of government being put through and being en-

acted than ever before." The party would strenuously oppose policies with which it disagreed.

Liz Lynne, former MP for Rochdale and Lord Russell, the Liberal Democrat peer, joined the attack on new Labour. But Lord Rodgers warned colleagues that it would be "madness" if they did not seek a part with Mr Blair in a "broad, inclusive, progressive alliance of the Centre Left".

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Prescott seeks pay accord

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN PRESCOTT was last night leading moves to relieve the Cabinet's embarrassment over its pay rise after ministers seemed on the verge of rescuing at least part of their £16,000 rise.

The Deputy Prime Minister was asked by Tony Blair to consult ministers about how they could set an example to public-sector workers, whose

pay rises are certain to be restricted again this year. Mr Prescott is also looking for a long-term solution that would prevent ministerial pay being an annual source of discomfort for the Government.

There were indications last week that Cabinet ministers would follow the example of Mr Blair and Gordon Brown and forgo all of their increase due next year. But it emerged last night that ministers had not given up hope of taking at

least some of the rise and a compromise was being sought. Some ministers have expressed private resentment of the Chancellor for allegedly "bouncing" the rest into giving up their rises.

The possibility of ministers taking a proportion of their rise — up to half of the recommended figure — was being considered. Support was declining for a suggestion that ministers give the money to charity.

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The seven dead
who made office

Currie serves up hot stuff at book launch

The legendary self-publicist exceeded even her own past exploits, report

Shirley English and Andrew Pierce

EVEN by Edwina Currie's legendary standards at generating publicity the announcement yesterday of her 25-year marriage was remarkable. It came in full glare of the cameras halfway through a national tour to promote her latest novel.

Mrs Currie, 50, the former MP for Derbyshire South, made the announcement in Glasgow where she was promoting *She's Leaving Home*. She said the timing of the statement and the title of the book were an "awkward coincidence".

Just two hours after making the announcement after opening a book shop in Glasgow, Mrs Currie arrived in Edinburgh where she held court with journalists in the George Hotel. Wearing a black Italian wool suit and pink blouse, and sporting what she called her "Vogue makeover" — a wispy hairstyle with blonde highlights — she appeared composed and relaxed.

She said she and her husband had simply grown apart and had known for some time that the marriage was over. They had wanted to make the announcement earlier but had kept putting it off until she

had eventually "put her foot down". The decision was amicable but she had been the active party, she said, adding that they hoped to remain friends.

She said she was not one of those women whose lives revolved around being "somebody's wife." "What do you do if you don't miss someone any more? The way forward is a solitary one but I am very lucky I have lots of friends."

"When you have children you make time for the family, but our kids are 20 and 22 now and they are making their own lives and that sense of obligation begins to weaken."

Mrs Currie explained that the title of the book had been chosen by her editor four months ago, who did not know about the imminent split. She said: "I remember biting my lip when I realised that was going to be the title. It had to be a Beatles song. I wanted it to be called *Class*

Your Eyes and I'll Kiss You.

Yet Mrs Currie has proved in the past she can be a master of publicity stunts. She flew to Ireland in the last week of the election campaign to appear on a television show to promote her daughter Debbie's first pop record. With her mother looking on approvingly Debbie, 22, revealed that she had engaged in a four-in-a-bed sex romp, had lost her virginity at the age of 15, and had been expelled from school for swearing at her headmaster.

The incredulous interviewer insisted it must be a publicity stunt, which they denied. The desired result was achieved. Mother and daughter were front-page news. The record, *You Can Do Magic*, reached only number 86 in the charts. "I hardly mattered. Debbie's voice was not on the disc. It was a publicity stunt for her undercover role for *The Cook Report* into chart rigging."

They were front-page news again.

It was vintage stuff even for the former Health Minister who once advised businessmen: "Don't smoke or screw around. The best thing to take abroad to avoid Aids is the wife."

Mrs Currie said it was possible that politics had contributed to her drifting apart from her husband, but she added: "I have always had a career and a life that is very fulfilling and took up an enormous amount of time."

The couple were married in July 1972 after meeting at an office party of Arthur Andersen, the accountancy firm where they both worked. Mrs Currie, born into an orthodox Jewish family in Liverpool, risked their disapproval by converting to Christianity to marry him in Devon.

"I came from a strict orthodox Jewish background. I was told I would have to choose between him or them and I chose him. And I am glad I did. It is something I do not regret at all. We had many, many good years and I am sad we are not going in opposite directions, different directions," she said.

She said she now planned to concentrate on her writing. She is also involved in radio and television broadcasting in London.

She finished by saying that she had fought hard for a long time to save her marriage. "I am a fighter, I don't give up easily," she said.



Edwina Currie in Edinburgh yesterday, initially for the launch of her third book

Heroine's affairs between the covers

By Nicholas Watt
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE heroine of Edwina Currie's first novel, *A Parliamentary Affair*, separates from her airline pilot husband after he announces that he has started an affair with a stewardess.

Elaine Stalker, MP for fictional Warrington South, is devastated when she gets a note from her husband asking for a divorce and another from his solicitor.

"Elaine could not explain why she crumpled in sobs, great retching yelps that shook her for several minutes, as she scrambled for tissues." The letters devastated Elaine, although a few pages later the story moves on to her affair with Roger Dickson, a married government whip.

The novel was dedicated to her husband, Ray, "with love and thanks". Her warm note is followed by a Hemingway quote designed, no doubt, to distance Mrs Currie the real MP from the raunchy tale. It reads: "All good books are alike, in that they are truer than if they really happened."

Her latest book does not touch on divorce, although it is unmistakably based on her teenage years in Liverpool. *She's Leaving Home*, which is set in 1963, tells the story of Helen Majinsky, a 16-year-old Jewish girl who becomes disillusioned with Judaism, falls in love with a non-Jewish boy and wins a scholarship to Cambridge.



The inauspiciously named book, and the Curries united on the campaign trail



Addict 'spent Asprilla gift on cocaine'

By Tim Jones

FAUSTINO ASPRILLA, the Newcastle United footballer, told a court yesterday that he gave about £1,000 to an alleged drug dealer as a gift to help to keep a roof over his head. Señor Asprilla, the hero of Newcastle United's European Champions League victory over Barcelona, denied knowing that the man was a cocaine addict.

Southwark Crown Court was told that Leonel Sarmiento-Mottoa, who was born in Columbia and holds a British passport, had visited the footballer at his Tyneside home. Señor Asprilla, a Colombian international, said: "He told me he had problems with his lodgings and had to live in a hotel and he asked me for help to pay for it. I gave him £800 to £1,000 as a present."

Police found 15 ounces of cocaine, worth about £1,300, in the car of Mr Sarmiento-Mottoa, 31, who pleads not guilty to possessing drugs with intent to supply. The defendant said that the drug had been paid for partly by the gift. "Mr Asprilla knew nothing about me taking drugs or of my intention to take drugs. He will be really surprised."

Señor Asprilla told the jury he had no idea that Mr Sarmiento-Mottoa was a cocaine user. Asked by Richard Hayden, for the prosecution, whether he would have given the money if he had known it was for drugs, he said: "Probably not."

Señor Asprilla, speaking through an interpreter, said that on other occasions he had

given the defendant sums of £40 to £50. "He was useful to me, translating things for me many times." Although Mr Sarmiento-Mottoa sometimes acted as a chauffeur and accompanied him to restaurants, he did not consider him a close friend.

Mr Sarmiento-Mottoa, of Islington, North London, said he was spending up to £350 a month on the drug and that, although he had three bank accounts and owned a London flat, his finances were in a mess. "I was hooked on cocaine. I was betraying the trust of Mr Asprilla when I spent the money."

Señor Asprilla was complimented by Mr Hayden on his hat-trick in the Barcelona game. Afterwards he was surrounded by autograph hunters. A court usher said: "I have two sons and they will be delighted when I take these home."

The trial continues.



Asprilla outside the courthouse yesterday

Ex-boxer denies grant deceit

By Mike Horsnell

TERRY MARSH, the former world boxing champion, yesterday denied any intention to deceive when he applied for a student grant to which he was not entitled.

A jury was told that Mr Marsh, 39, received more than £9,400 in maintenance grant and tuition fees in 1995 from the London Borough of Tower Hamlets for a two-year Higher National Diploma course in computer studies at the Guildhall University in London. He should not have received the money because he already had a BA honours degree in politics and government from the same university.

It was only after speaking to two cousins who were teachers that Mr Marsh realised that he was not entitled to a grant. As a result, he told the jury at Southwark Crown Court, he telephoned Tower Hamlets Council to tell them this.

David Stone, principal awards officer for Tower Hamlets, said that the alleged fraud, under the Theft Act, was uncovered after he saw a television profile of the defendant which disclosed that he already had a degree.

Mr Marsh admitted that he had crossed out the word "university" where it asked for his educational qualifications. "I didn't see a degree as an 'exam' as opposed to O and A levels," he said.

Mr Marsh denies furnishing false information for an award application between May 13 and June 20, 1995. The trial continues.

The seven deadly sinners who make office life hell

By Damian Whitworth

EVERY office has them; those "difficult" people who turn the daily working routine into a gruelling battle. Now in an initiative bound to provoke an outbreak of finger-pointing among colleagues, the seven classic types that blight the workplace have been identified by management gurus.

On the summit of the vile pile is the Autocratic Dictator, the tyrant who stays on top by keeping others down, is quick to anger and often unpredictable. There is the Back Stabber, who strikes with venomous criticism, spreads

vicious rumours and then acts the innocent.

The Critical Advice Giver behaves as if he or she is the world expert on any subject and addresses others with condescension and aloofness. The Tight Lip, meanwhile, communicates only in sulkily monosyllables and refuses to clarify why he — or she — has taken such umbrage.

The Fault Finder, according to the seminars, picks at everything and implies that someone else is always to blame. The Soothing Delayer is agreeable enough, but

causes immense frustration by refusing to actually do anything. The Downer simply thinks everything will always get worse.

The seven deadly stereotypes have been drawn up by Fred Pryor Seminars, an American organisation, which teaches the way to survive the interpersonal pitfalls of the office. "People are afraid to say 'no' but it's better in the long run," said Elizabeth Paddon, one of the American seminar leaders who are touring Britain at present in an attempt to bring harmony to offices.

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Tonypandy, the lilting voice of democracy

THE Queen last night led tributes to Viscount Tonypandy, who, as George Thomas, was for many the voice of the Commons when debates were first broadcast on radio in 1978. The former Speaker's cries in lilting Welsh tones of "Order, order" were instantly recognisable.

Lord Tonypandy, who died yesterday aged 83, entered Parliament in 1945. After holding several ministerial offices, he was elected Speaker in 1976, a position he held until 1983, when he retired to the House of Lords. He did not marry and his title dies with him.

For many years Lord Tonypandy battled with throat cancer but refused to give up public appearances. Most recently, as a fervent opponent of devolution, he campaigned against the Government's plans for a Welsh Assembly. As a committed parliamentarian, he lent his weight to the late Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party campaign against the European Union.

A statement by the Queen said: "I was very sad to hear of

Politicians across the spectrum paid tribute to former Speaker's humour and integrity, reports James Landale

Lord Tonypandy's death. Like so many people who knew him, or heard his voice, I will remember his warm personality, his dignity as Speaker of the House of Commons, his wonderful Welsh accent and his long and courageous battle against throat cancer. My family join me in sending our sympathy to all his friends and colleagues."

A friend of the Royal Family, Lord Tonypandy read the lesson at the Prince of Wales's wedding in 1981 and was devastated by the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Despite his illness, he signed a book of condolence.

Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, said Lord Tonypandy would be remembered with great affection. "His voice became one of the most famous in the land when, during his tenure as Speaker, radio broadcast-

ings began." Mr Blair said: "But in Parliament he was just as well known and respected for his fairness, his kindness and his judgment. His former constituents will miss him greatly."

William Hague, the Tory leader, said Lord Tonypandy was much loved and widely respected. "We have lost a great parliamentarian, a man who was a symbol for British democracy around the world and a proud Welshman who defended our United Kingdom with passion. The people of Wales and the whole of Britain will be saddened by his death."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said that Lord Tonypandy "combined the qualities of fairness and authority which are the hallmarks of all great Speakers".

Baroness Thatcher des-

cribed him as "a great patriot and a transparently good man whose personal qualities - as much as the position he held with such distinction - won him the affection and respect of people of every political conviction and none."

"He was also a wonderful example of Christianity in action. All through my career he was a good friend to me, and I shall miss him."

Betty Boothroyd, the current Speaker, said that her friend had fought bravely against cancer. "It was typical of him that he carried out public engagements in spite of his serious illness until very recently."

"As Speaker, he was a dominant figure. His presence was magisterial, but at the same time he appeared human and friendly. He was particularly adept at breaking tensions in the House with his own brand of humour. I thank God for his distinctive life of service to the House of Commons, to the country at large and to all his fellow men and women."

Obituary, page 20



As George Thomas, his cries of "Order, order" became famous when Commons debates were broadcast on radio

Chemotherapy boy to have surgery soon

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

TWO pieces of tissue, each the size of a pomegranate seed, are to be taken from a small boy in the next ten days during an operation to prepare him for chemotherapy treatment which will inevitably sterilise him. The tissue will be stored for up to 20 years ready to be reinserted, so that he has a chance of fathering children.

Doctors at the Manchester Children's Hospital caring for Oscar von Memerty, aged two, who has a life-threatening disorder, have decided it is best to give the little boy only one anaesthetic for both the initial bone marrow treatment and the removal of the testicular tissue. The specialist team of three from the Rachel Foundation in Nottingham who will remove the tissue will bring their equipment to Manchester for the operation.

The Times described yesterday how Oscar and his four-year-old sister Valeska were brought here from South Africa by their parents to be treated for an inherited metabolic disorder that would otherwise kill them by their early twenties. The treatment involves large doses of chemotherapy, which will cause sterility.

Oscar is to become the first patient in the world to be given an experimental treatment whereby testicular tissue is removed before chemotherapy and stored so that it can be reinserted when he becomes a

teenager. The hope is that this will restore his fertility. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority has approved the treatment because, at his age, the boy is incapable of producing sperm.

Once the Manchester surgeons have finished preparing Oscar for his bone marrow transplant, the Nottingham team will probably use a wide needle to extract the tissue from the testes during a 20-minute operation. The tissue will then be given initial preservation treatment, before being put into an incubator and driven 70 miles to Nottingham. The tissue will be cleaned, held in suspension with cryoprotectant, and stored in liquid nitrogen. At some stage in the next few years it will be necessary to experiment on a tiny piece of the tissue to find the best way of thawing it, to ensure that the main part of the tissue is not damaged when it is eventually needed for reinsertion into the boy.

"We are all terribly excited about getting the go-ahead to help Oscar," Simon Fishel, who heads the Nottingham team, said last night. "We cannot know for certain if the treatment will work, but at least it gives him hope. It will be a start in finding a way to help the thousands of children who are sterilised each year in the course of treatment to cure their cancer."

Not enough cooks spoil the broth

By ROBIN YOUNG

BRITAIN has become a nation of armchair cooks who prefer watching television chefs busily preparing dishes to lifting a pan themselves, according to a survey published today.

Britons rely increasingly on convenience foods, and only 42 per cent say they enjoy spending time at the stove. Of those who venture into the kitchen, 95 per cent admit using ready meals to save time. Most claim that they can throw together an evening meal in under half an hour with the right store-bought ingredients and pre-prepared foods.

That leaves plenty of time for would-be gourmets to watch the 15 hours of cookery programmes broadcast on terrestrial television each week. Further helpings are available on cable.

The report, by NOP, says the weight of ready meals eaten in the United Kingdom

has doubled in five years to 99,000 tonnes a year, at a cost of £505 million. The most popular dish is lasagne, followed by Indian meals, Chinese and Thai food.

Tim Sutton, marketing director of Geest Prepared Foods, which commissioned the research, said yesterday: "People love to titillate their taste buds by watching sumptuous cookery programmes on TV, but it's often more for entertainment value. We are increasingly using chilled prepared foods to form the basis of the evening meal at home."

CORRECTION

Voting in the election for the leader of British Conservative MEPs (report, September 17) was Edward McMillan-Scott nine votes and Edward Kellett-Bowman eight, a majority of one.

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Gifted pupil is 'too sarcastic' for sixth form

BY JOANNA BAILE

ONE of the brightest pupils at a leading grammar school has been expelled for being just a little bit too clever for his own good.

Alex Beame, 16, who recently achieved eight A-grade and two B-grade GCSEs, plus an A* in maths, has been told he cannot return to Sir Thomas Rich School, Gloucester, to study for A levels because he is "sarcastic".

Ian Kellie, the head teacher, who may be facing court action from Alex's parents over the decision, said: "Although he is a very clever boy I decided it was not appropriate for him to be a member of the sixth form. He has been sarcastic, rude and confrontational towards staff, uncooperative, grudging and arrogant in his attitude, and has disrupted classes. The decision is backed by the governors and staff."

However, Peter Clarke, chairman of Gloucestershire education committee, disagreed: "The boy has to be formally excluded, his parents informed of the reasons and given the right to appeal. None of this has happened."

"A headteacher can't just chuck pupils out like this. We have told him that he is on his own if this goes to court."

Alex's parents said that he was just a "typical adolescent" and have obtained legal aid to seek a judicial review of the headteacher's decision.

Asked why teachers at the state boys' school could not handle Alex's rude but non-violent behaviour, Mr Kellie said: "It is not normal adolescent grumpiness. We are a boys' school, so we are used to dealing with the full range of attitudes and problems. He



Alex Beame described as clever, but sarcastic

has never done anything that would have justified formal exclusion, but I have denied him a place in the sixth form because of his invidious nastiness — he has treated the school and staff with contempt."

"The staff has done a professional job taking him up to GCSE, but I have to consider other pupils because I do not want him holding them back."

Meanwhile, another pupil and one of Alex's friends, Craig Collier, is also being denied a place in the sixth form for similar reasons. Craig got 11 GCSEs (two As, eight Bs, and one C). His parents have also been granted legal aid to pursue their case through the courts.

Alex's mother, Helen McComb, a trade union administrative officer who is divorced from Alex's father, was warned in a letter from Mr Kellie in April that she should not assume that her son would be offered a sixth-form place.

She said: "He was at the school for five years and there

was only ever one complaint about his behaviour which I believed had been resolved. The school is not following proper procedures and we do not want any other parent to go through what we've been through."

"His behaviour is just typical adolescent behaviour. He is not a bad lad and has never done anything grossly wrong. He is intelligent and questioning."

Mrs McComb claimed the school had refused to provide copies of the school disciplinary procedure or of Alex's record so they could appeal.

Alex said: "As soon as I finished my GCSEs in June Mr Kellie told me I would not be given a sixth-form place. I was very disappointed."

The chairman of governors, Jan Wilton, was unavailable for comment. Alex is continuing his studies at St Peter's Roman Catholic comprehensive school, Gloucester, while the dispute goes on.



Mark Howard claimed he lost his job for taking time off for his sick daughter

Journalist found the going tough in a woman's realm

BY CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR executive of *Woman's Realm* accused the magazine of hypocrisy yesterday when he lost a claim for unfair dismissal. Features editor Mark Howard, 37, said he was sacked for taking an hour off work after his young daughter was rushed to hospital.

He alleged the magazine had shown him no sympathy when his daughter Alice, ten, suffered an epileptic fit. Mr Howard, whose 12-year-old son suffers from leukaemia, failed in a High Court attempt to be reinstated when he was told he had no legal grounds to fight his case. Mr Justice Lindsay said that although he sympathised with the illnesses of his children, the magazine had not breached its contract.

Mr Howard, from Plumstead, southeast London, who was seeking an interim injunction against IPC, the magazine's owner, over his sacking last week, claimed Kathy Watson, the editor of the magazine, had told him to clear his desk after he returned to the London offices

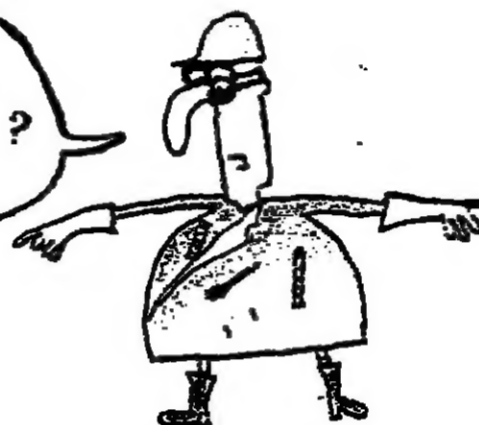
from Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

He told the court: "I rang work to tell them I would be late because Alice was ill, but when I returned Kathy Watson told me: 'Shut up, Mark, you're not working out as features editor, you're fired. I want you out of the building today.'"

He added later outside court that he would fight on and said: "This is really hypocritical because *Woman's Realm* continuously runs features on parents with sick children who are learning to cope with their situation. But here they are sacking me and leaving me in the lurch with a sick child."

Iris Burton, editor-in-chief of *Woman's Realm*, said Mr Howard's sacking had nothing to do with him taking time off but was because he was "ill mannered" and "unreliable". She said Mr Howard, who joined the magazine in July on a three-month probation period and a £33,000 salary, had failed to work harmoniously with colleagues and management.

Where is everybody?



Bodyguard says Fayed ordered driver change

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

DODI FAYED personally instructed Henri Paul to take the wheel of the car in which they died and in which Diana, Princess of Wales, was fatally injured, according to the bodyguard who was the sole survivor of the crash.

Trevor Rees-Jones told investigators that Mr Fayed, his employer, had come up with the ruse of sending two decoy cars from the front of the hotel in the Place Vendôme while he and the Princess tried to slip away from the rear exit.

"It was Dodi who called Henri Paul so he could drive us from the back of the hotel. It was Dodi who changed his plans, not I," Mr Rees-Jones, 29, said in a 15-minute interview with investigators last Friday.

"The original idea was to leave from the front in two cars to keep the photographers as far away as possible. They were there anyway and I thought it would be better to have two cars than one." He added that he did not know why Mr Fayed had decided on the change of plan.

Anticipating such a move, some photographers had stalked out the back of the hotel. Mr Rees-Jones recalled being followed by two motorcycles and a white car but said he had no memory of the moments directly before the accident. "I remember being

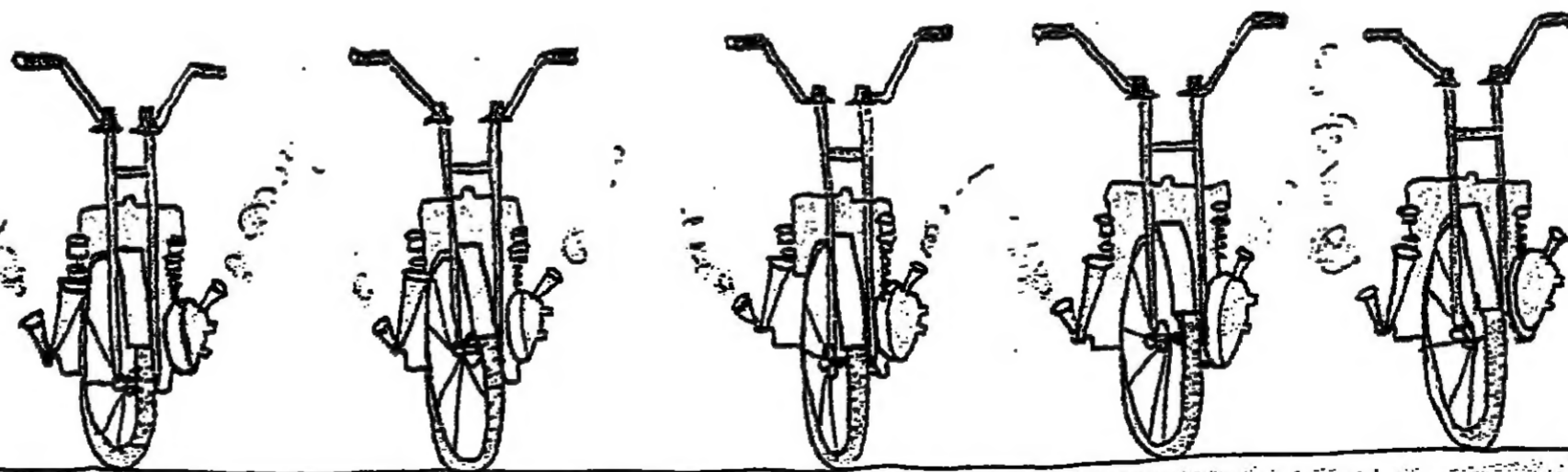


Rees-Jones said driver of car appeared "fine"

sat in the car and I don't remember anything else."

M Paul was later found to be have been more than three times over the legal alcohol limit for driving. Traces of antidepressant drugs were also found. Mr Rees-Jones said that M Paul had appeared "fine".

The bodyguard is expected to be interviewed again this week. Doctors say he may be suffering from partial amnesia caused by shock and large doses of anaesthetic administered during surgery to reconstruct his face. However, the French magazine *Voici* reported yesterday that police and doctors at the La Pitié-Salpêtrière hospital had allowed "the rumour of the bodyguard's partial memory loss to circulate in order to guarantee that they could interview him in peace".



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3rd Issue Monthly	£1,000	6.31%	6.50%	5.05%
4th Issue Yearly	£1,000	6.00%	—	4.80%
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£100m lifeline thrown to higher education

MINISTERS are expected to announce today a £100 million rescue package for higher education to quell fears that the introduction of tuition fees next year will bring no immediate benefits to universities.

Baroness Blackstone, an Education Minister, promised vice-chancellors an early decision on their budgets last week. Although the announcement will not guarantee universities the full proceeds of the first fees, the package should constitute a lifeline in the coming year. The amount of state support that universities receive for each student has dropped by 40 per cent in real terms over the past 20 years. The extra money will be allocated according to need.

Some institutions were contemplating staff cuts, despite indica-

John O'Leary on ministers' move to avert crisis made more threatening by tuition fees

tions that universities and colleges have filled up to 30,000 more student places than were allocated by their funding council. David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, had conceded that higher education faced a "crisis".

Sir Ron Dearing, in his report in July on higher education, predicted a funding gap of £9 billion by the end of the decade if no action were taken. A report to be published tomorrow by the Higher Education Funding Council for England will illustrate the scale of the immediate problems. The researchers, from Manchester University, found that universities needed £400 million to

bring their teaching equipment up to date. Four fifths of universities and more than half of all colleges could not cover important topics because of a lack of equipment.

The report predicts that students will be required to supply personal computers in a few years. At present, it says, many are being trained on obsolete equipment which is inferior to that which they will encounter at work.

Universities and colleges were limited by the funding council that allocates their grants to 310,000 students this autumn. By yesterday, however, 324,000 places had been filled and admissions officers expected at least another 16,000 stu-

dents to join at the start of term.

Some universities are thought to have ignored recruitment limits and risked fines of hundreds of thousands of pounds because they fear that the introduction of fees will lead to a slump in applications next year. Admissions officers report an unusually large number of well-qualified candidates and fewer withdrawals than usual.

Douglas Trainer, president of the National Union of Students, said overcrowded campuses could not cope with the influx. "There are real questions about the quality of resources and the quality of education these people will receive." Shortages of residential accommodation have

begun to reappear. At Central Lancashire University, some students had to be found temporary accommodation last week even though the university was close to its recruitment target.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England fines universities more than £1,000 per student if they are more than 2 per cent over their target number. Some may lose up to £500,000 if estimates by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service are correct.

Roger Grinley, the funding council's spokesman, said: "It remains to be seen whether institutions have overshot to this extent, but they were well aware of the arrangements and

there are no plans to waive the penalties. Institutions have been so good at managing their admissions that the 144 universities and colleges were less than 2,000 over the target last year."

Some plan to argue that the Government's late decision on fees and the subsequent confusion over deferred applications made it impossible to be as accurate this year.

Andrew Hindmarch, who is responsible for undergraduate admissions at Sheffield University, said: "We are about 150 students over our target, but this is a small number over a large university, especially when fewer students than usual have declined places." Brunel and Lancaster have admitted taking 10 per cent more than the maximum set by the funding council.

Board to check its marking of A-level English

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

AN EXAMINING board has launched an inquiry into its marking of A-level English papers after more than half the students from one school had their grades increased on appeal.

Of 61 students who took English Literature at Yeovil College, Somerset, in June, 33 had their marks improved by at least one grade after teachers sent their papers back to the Associated Examining Board in Guildford, Surrey.

Two students were moved from Grade C to Grade A, and 12 were increased to A or B grades. Some students who had originally received disappointing grades may now be accepted by their first-choice universities. Many had been forced to make plans to go elsewhere.

Richard Atkins, the college principal, said yesterday that the results of re-marking were astonishing. "This raises doubts about the examining boards and about the consistency and validity of A-level results," he said. It is the first time the college has returned so many exam papers to be marked again.

Initially the college had been pleased that all candidates had passed when the results were published last month, but closer inspection showed the grades were mainly C, D and E. Although everyone had done well on the course work, almost everyone had done badly on the second exam paper.

Mr Atkins said: "It was very disappointing and did not make sense that one paper should be so out of line. We contacted the examining board and asked for all the papers here to be re-marked."

"We were astonished to find that 33 of the 61 candidates had their grades raised. It means a number of students will now be able to try and access their first-choice university place instead of having to make do with a second or third choice or even miss out altogether this year."

"This is a key year to go to university because of the introduction of tuition charges next year. Waiting to hear their grades has been a very stressful time for students and their families."

A spokesman at the Associated Examining Board said there would be an inquiry. "In some cases where a student was near the boundary it would only take a mark or two to move up a grade."

"One of the things we don't do is grade students down, so you get a biased picture. If examiners do not keep to the marking scheme they are not reappointed."

PC jailed for lie that head hit girl in chest

By a Staff Reporter

A POLICEMAN was jailed for three years yesterday for falsely claiming that a headmistress hit a child. The judge said that the Essex officer was the author of a ruthless conspiracy.

PC Robert Cumming, 44, of Saffron Walden, was convicted of conspiring to pervert the course of justice. Chelmsford Crown Court was told that, shortly after visiting a junior school in Saffron Walden, he made a statement alleging that the headmistress had struck a four-year-old girl in the chest.

Cumming later persuaded his wife and his mother-in-law to say they saw the assault in the assembly hall, but they were not there.

Judge Benjamin Pearson told Cumming that the head's reputation was supremely important to her. "You set out deliberately to destroy that reputation, to ruin that career. Over four or five years you wrote numerous letters to her, many of an intimidating and threatening nature."

"Such was your conduct that you were barred from visiting that school. As a result, you embarked upon a ruthless course of conduct, fuelled by your obsessiveness and antagonism towards her."

Essex Police said that Cumming had been suspended from duty. As a result of the conviction, the matter would be referred to the Chief Constable, who would consider dismissing him from the service.

After 121 years, Long Wolf will be buried at Wounded Knee

By Philip Delves Broughton

THE family of a Sioux Indian chief who died in Britain more than 100 years ago have arrived in London to return his remains to the Black Hills of South Dakota.

The detective work that uncovered the neglected grave and alerted his descendants — including the granddaughter who was with him when he died — was carried out by a housewife from Hereford and Worcester.

Chief Long Wolf fought with the Sioux against the US Army and, according to his family, helped to defeat General Custer at Little Big Horn in 1876. When the Sioux were finally overcome, however, he joined "Buffalo Bill" Cody's Wild West show.

In 1892 he contracted pneumonia on a trip to London to perform at Earl's Court, died, and was buried by Cody at Brompton Cemetery, where his grave lay undisturbed for decades. His body, which was

"We do not believe his spirit will be settled until his body has been brought home"

examined at the West London Hospital, was covered with wounds and scars believed to have been inflicted during battles with the US Cavalry.

Yesterday Jessie Black Feather, 87, the granddaughter and oldest living descendant of Long Wolf, said: "We have come to England to fulfil my grandfather's dying wish of being returned to America."

Jessie's mother, Lizzie, was 12 and with her father in London when he died. The family was unable to take his body home immediately, and

after she returned to America she lost track of where Long Wolf was buried.

His body will be exhumed on Thursday, taken in a horse-drawn carriage to the gates of the cemetery, then flown home. He will be buried on Sunday with Indian and Christian ceremonies at the ancestral burial ground of the Oglala Sioux tribe at the Pine Ridge Reservation in Wounded Knee.

The trail to Long Wolf's repatriation began six years ago when Elizabeth Knight from Bromsgrove found a book in an antique market by Robert Cunningham Graham, the adventurer and politician. It contained a long passage on the life and lonely death of Long Wolf, and described how the once-great Sioux chief lay in a "neglected grave in a lone corner of a crowded London cemetery".

Mrs Knight set to work, found Long Wolf's grave and tracked down his descendants by placing adverts in American newspapers. John Black Feather, the son of Jessie and great-grandson of the chief, said: "I couldn't believe it when I spotted this advert; my mother had been searching for years for her grandfather's grave. We were so excited, our immediate plan was to bring him home."

The bureaucratic process, which lasted four years, began with letters to the US State Department and the British Government.

"As he lay dying, the chief said how much he wanted to go home," John Black Feather said. "We're just delighted now that we have almost fulfilled that wish. It's important for us because we do not believe his spirit will be settled until his body has been brought home."



"Buffalo Bill", in whose Wild West Show in London Long Wolf, right, was appearing when he died



Wilmer Mesteth, a Sioux medicine man, at Long Wolf's grave yesterday

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Advance in breast cancer diagnosis

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

A NEW method for detecting breast cancer has been launched at a London hospital. The technique, which is designed to supplement a conventional mammography, will be used to detect cancers in women whose mammograms are ambiguous.

The technique, called scintimammography, uses a radioactive tracer to produce clear X-ray images that pinpoint the cancer cells. A fluid containing a radioactive technetium is injected into the foot while the patient lies on a couch. The fluid homes in on tumours, highlighting them so that the position and size can be determined.

The procedure takes up to 45 minutes and will probably be used for the 5 to 10 per cent of women who show ambiguities on their mammograms. "If the results are negative, we can spare patients unnecessary surgery," Andrew

Hilson, of the Royal Free Hospital, said. "If they are positive, then patients who are uncertain whether they want the operation will have more data to go on."

Scintimammography was developed by Iraj Khalkhali, of the University of California at Los Angeles. It can be used by any hospital with a nuclear medicine department and costs £50 per patient for the radioactive material. About 30 hospitals are expected to be involved in the first wave of the programme which will be extended to 200 hospitals.

The images can help to determine what treatment should be used and to monitor progress. John Buscombe, of the Royal Free, said: "Scintimammography is a major development. Because it specifically picks out the cancerous cells, it means that doubts left after mammography can be resolved."

Doctors get circumcision guidelines for protection

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

DOCTORS were given new rules yesterday on how to perform circumcisions.

They were not told, however, whether the operation was ethically correct for non-medical purposes. The new rules contain guidance meant to protect them against being sued if they perform the operation on a baby who decides to claim compensation when he grows up.

The new clinical advice was issued by the General Medical Council, the profession's ruling body, after a series of complaints about the standards of care provided for the operation. Recent research published by the *British Medical Journal* has shown that about one male in five in Britain is circumcised, with 2 per cent suffering complications brought by the operation.

The council's new, carefully worded, guidance says doctors are not obliged to act on a

request to circumcise a child, but should explain if they are opposed to the operation other than for therapeutic reasons. If they refuse to operate, they must tell parents they have the right to see another doctor.

If they agree to carry out the operation, they must obtain permission from both parents if possible and, in all cases, obtain consent in writing. They must have the necessary skills to perform the operation and use anaesthetics. Parents should be told the benefits and risks of the procedure.

The dilemma for doctors, if they decide not to perform the operation, is that it might then be carried out in unhygienic conditions by someone without medical training. Circumcision is required by both the Jewish and Muslim religions and devout parents may have it done in conditions which damage the child's health.

A British branch of an

American pressure group called Norm — National Organisation for the Restoring of Men — was set up last year by John Warren, a chest physician at Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow, Essex. Its 20 original members claim that only 1 per cent of circumcisions are medically necessary.

Professor Sir Cyril Chantler, chairman of the GMC's standards committee, has said that male circumcision was legal in Britain and the question as to whether it was ethical was not a medical issue. John Dalton, a research archivist for Norm, argues in the latest *BMJ* that a parent is able to give legal consent for an operation only if it is necessary for therapeutic reasons. Research in the United States, where more than 80 per cent of men are circumcised, has shown that it reduces risks of HIV and Aids.

Sticky end for marmalade crusader

By Robin Young

DOES marmalade by any other name sell as well? Craig Sams may be about to find out, though he fears he already knows the answer. When Mr Sams's jams made with concentrated apple juice were ruled not to be jams, their sales fell by a fifth. Now West London magistrates have decided his marmalades are not marmalade either.

Mr Sams, who runs Whole Earth Foods, has been combating an anomaly in the jam regulations for 14 years, and believed his efforts to get the law clarified were about to bear fruit. A draft European directive is in the pipeline.

Yesterday, however, he was fined £150

on each of three counts under the old regulations, one for his thin cut orange marmalade, one for his coarse, and one for his organic version — all made with concentrated apple juice as the sweetening agent instead of dextrose, glucose or some other industrial sugar.

He could have been fined £15,000 a time. So perhaps it was not so surprising that he did not object to having £4,567 costs awarded against him, too.

Sandra Fox, chairman of the magistrates, told Mr Sams that it was not in question that his marmalades were wholesome and healthy. It was just that they were not marmalades.

Tracy Ayling, for Mr Sams, urged the magistrates to accept that Mr Sams was

correct in his belief that fructose from concentrated apple juice was a permitted means of sweetening marmalade, even though apple juice was not among the possible ingredients in the legislation. She also produced correspondence proving, she said, that Mr Sams had been prosecuted only because of pressure brought by a rival manufacturer.

Philip Kolvin, for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, which brought the prosecution, said that the clause on which Ms Ayling relied meant that only marmalade tarts or marmalade pies had to be made with marmalade, and not, as she had argued, that marmalades had themselves to be made of the ingredients listed on their labels.

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Colourful Britain makes its marque

Tourism's new logo is causing an identity crisis, writes Harvey Elliott

ENGLAND is red, Scotland blue, Wales a green squiggle, and London yellow splodges — at least in the eyes of the designers of the British Tourist Authority's new logo, which was unveiled yesterday.

For some tourist boards, however, the precise meaning of the logo, which cost £160,000 to produce and will be used on all promotional material around the world, was not so obvious.

The Welsh Tourist Board said it was delighted that the Union Flag had been retained, but was in some doubt about Wales's place in the logo. "We are led to believe that Wales is unofficially represented by the green," a spokesman said. "I suppose that comes from the

part of the amazing and appealing jigsaw that is Britain."

Ten designers created dozens of ideas for the logo, some of which did not feature the Union Flag, before producing the final version. Annie Eaves, of the design company Real Time, led the team which spent six months on the project, using research commissioned by the authority on how people in six main markets around the world perceived Britain.

"It showed that Britain was considered to be an island of contrasts and we had to reflect all those elements," Ms Eaves said. The team had to combine the stability and history of Britain and its more modern, vibrant aspects.

The designs were presented to meetings of authority committees before a choice was made by the board last July. "The team refined the design and then the clients put it through all their major committees that make up the BTA before it was agreed," Ms Eaves said.

Mr Quarumby said that there had been no change to the design since that decision and the delay in the launch had been to give tourism offices in 47 countries a chance to put the new design on promotional material and to prepare a video of different aspects of Britain.

The new marque drew warm praise from both sides of the political divide yesterday. Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, said that the logo used the Union Flag to good effect. "It demonstrates a pride in our heritage, but also suggests style and vivacity which are attractive to so many of our visitors from abroad."

Virginia Bottomley, the former Heritage Secretary, said: "It is really cheerful, useful, good and absolutely splendid." The Earl of Lichfield said that it was "an exciting new and stylish look for British tourism which shows the spirit of today."

One dissenting voice was an onlooker at the public unveiling of the logo in Trafalgar Square. "The flag itself is OK," he said, "but the green and the yellow make it look more like the Irish flag."

Additional reporting by Damian Whitworth



Colour coded: tourist authority's new logo

green on which the red dragon of Wales is displayed. "London's tourism officials were also puzzled by the claim that the capital's identity was to be found in the yellow surround. "I am not sure that that is the case," a spokeswoman said. "There is so much on offer in London that no one colour symbolises all its attractions." She admitted, however, that part of the new London Tourist Board logo was in the same colour.

David Quarumby, chairman of the British Tourist Authority, was adamant that the green and the yellow represented Wales and London, the red England and the blue Scotland. However, Anthony Sell, his chief executive, said: "The colours are selected for the brands of Britain: the traditional red, white and blue, green for the landscape and yellow to project style and vivacity. The shapes carry several interpretations — sails, coastline, clouds — they are all



Children helping to launch the logo in Trafalgar Square yesterday. It cost £160,000 and will be used on promotions around the world

Residents say never to Never Land park

PEOPLE living at the birthplace of J.M. Barrie are objecting to plans for a multimillion-pound Peter Pan theme park. A consortium of business people at Kirriemuir, Angus, wants to turn a seven-acre pea field into Never Land.

The consortium has formed a charitable trust and says that profits will go to Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London, to which Barrie bequeathed the copyright on Peter Pan in 1929, and to other charities. The business people believe that the park would also bring more trade to Kirriemuir.

Residents held a public meeting this week and formed a committee to express their objections. They say that traffic congestion, parking problems, noise and depressed house prices would outweigh benefits, and that visitors would be unlikely to go into the town itself.

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It's party time in the Magic Kingdom.

As part of Disneyland Paris' continuing 5th Birthday celebrations all kinds of special events will be taking place this autumn. For instance there's the 'California

Dream' (until 12 October) when all the excitement of LA and Hollywood will cross the Atlantic to the Theme Park as the streets are lined with palm trees and packed with the colour and life of the City of Dreams. And later in the autumn you can take part in Halloween (25 October - 2 November), a celebration of pumpkins, spooks and infamous villains from your favourite Disney films.

Not to mention the other 5th Anniversary special like the dazzling Hunchback of Notre Dame Carnival and the nostalgic Disney Classics Musical spectacular. And of course there are all the other attractions that have made Disneyland Paris famously fun-filled already. There are over 50 breathtaking attractions and shows. In five magical Worlds for you to explore: nineteenth century Main Street, USA; western Frontierland; futuristic Discoveryland; exotic Adventureland and fairytale-like Fantasyland.

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Abuse scandal inquiries 'often a waste of time'

INQUIRIES into mental health and child abuse scandals rarely prevent new tragedies, say the experts who chair them. They called yesterday for an overhaul of the system, saying that more than 100 inquiries are held each year at a cost of hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Alyson Leslie, a management consultant and former social worker who has taken part in three inquiries, said that she had read the same conclusions time and again. "They invariably talk about poor communications between the agencies involved. They say what should be done to make things better. But they don't say how it can be achieved," she said.

About 20 mental health and 90 child abuse inquiries are commissioned by health authorities and social services departments each year. Ms Leslie, who recently chaired an inquiry in the Isle of Man into the case of a schizophrenic woman who killed her daughter, said that, even when inquiry reports made clear recommendations, little was done to ensure that they were implemented or disseminated to other health authorities or social service departments which might learn from them.

Allan Levy, QC, who chaired the Staffordshire "pindown" inquiry in 1990-91, said there appeared to have

**Experts tell
Alexandra
Freen that
investigations
are costly and
achieve little**

been little follow-up of even the most high-profile examples, such as the Cleveland and Orkney child abuse reports. "What we need is a Children's Commissioner, similar to what they have in New Zealand or Scandinavia, or a Mental Health Commissioner, and one for the elderly," he said. "They could ensure that government is not allowed to slide out of its obligations to ensure that there is reform."

Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, who has chaired five child abuse and mental health inquiries, said: "The lessons of inquiries are being learnt, but not as much as they ought to be because the inquiry teams are not responsible for allocating the resources needed to implement their recommendations."

Inquiry teams should be given the right to revisit health authorities a year after their

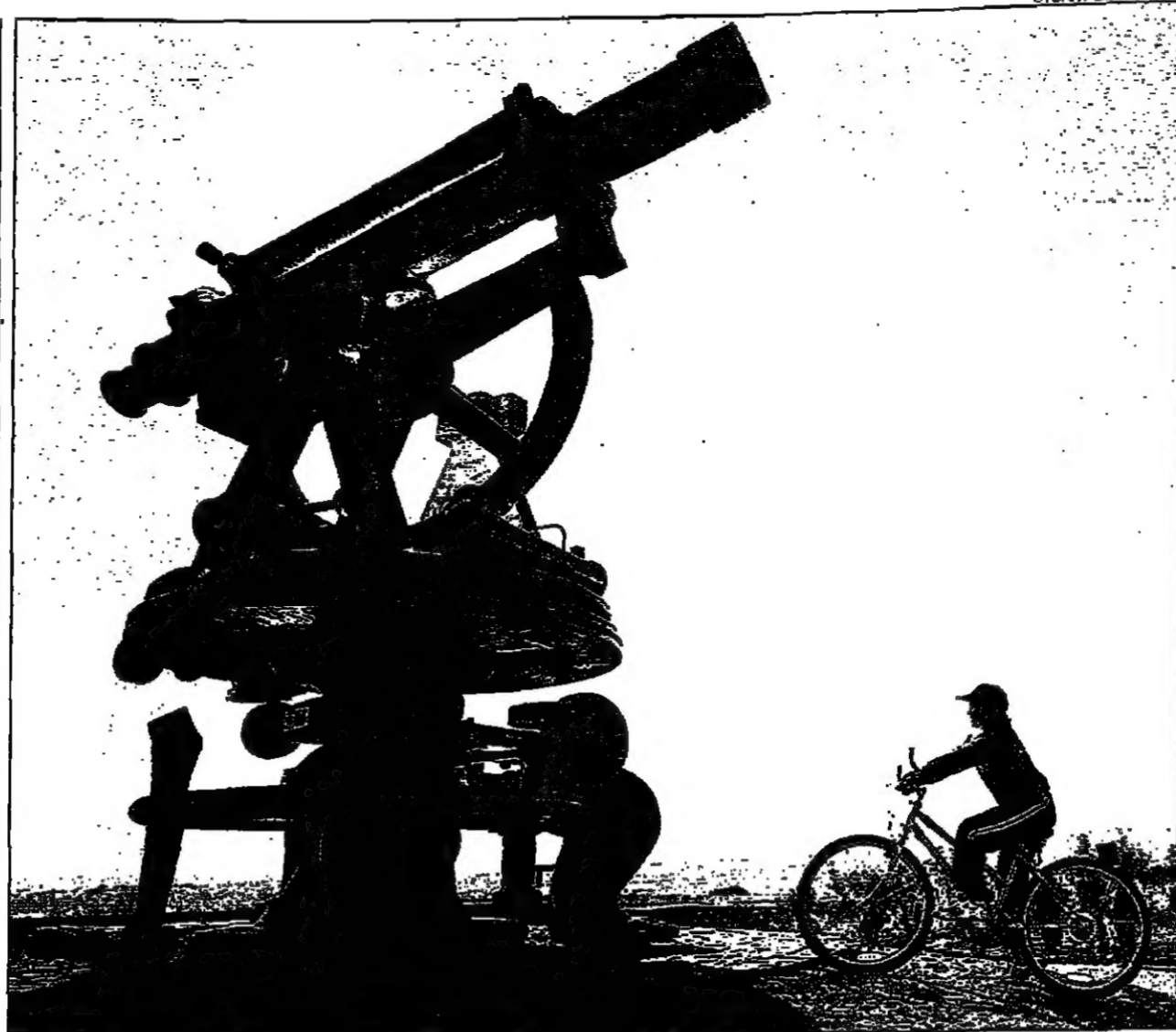
report to see if recommendations have been implemented, he said. Sir Louis has just revisited Suffolk health authority to carry out a follow-up report to his 1996 inquiry into a mental health patient who, in 1994, strangled an elderly couple in their home and then murdered his father.

Matt Muijen, director of the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health, who last year chaired an inquiry into the suicides of three men with mental health problems, called for an inquiries ombudsman who could decide if an inquiry was necessary.

"There seems to be a knee-jerk reaction to hold an inquiry whenever something goes wrong," he said. "It creates a climate of fear among health professionals. Inquiries are necessary sometimes, but there are instances when it is obvious that nobody is to blame — in which case, why hold an inquiry?"

A spokesman for the Department of Health said that health and local authorities were supposed to inform it when they were conducting an inquiry. "If there are policy lessons to be learnt, then we will look at them," he said.

He added that the Government was committed to passing legislation to enable health authorities and social services to pool their budgets to enable them to work better together.



Two giant surveying instruments dominate the landscape above the old Consett steelworks in Co Durham — the latest in a line of open-air monuments celebrating aspects of the North East.

The 20ft-high stainless steel sculptures, costing £90,000, are the work of the Turner prize-winning artist Tony Cragg. They were commissioned in honour of the region's industrial past and as a symbol of its economic regeneration

Monument to men of steel

since the closure of the iron and steel works in 1981.

Entitled *Terris Novalis*, it depicts a theodolite and a level, standing on the feet of mythical monsters. Despite its

prominent position, has escaped the controversy which has surrounded similar projects in the North East, such as the 60ft Gateshead Angel, designed by another Turner Prize-winning artist, Anthony Gormley.

It was funded by Arts Council cash from the National Lottery, Northern Arts, Derwentside Council, the Henry Moore Foundation, Consett's Genesis Project and industry.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Drunken passenger jailed for air detour

One of three drunken and abusive passengers, who caused a flight from Goa to Manchester to be diverted to Vienna, was jailed for four months. An air steward was posted beside the emergency door after Martin Bolger, 35, and his friends talked of leaving the flight when refused more drink. Bolger took a photograph under a stewardess's skirt. The men were ordered off the flight in Vienna, and the airline is expected to seek compensation from them for the detour. Bolger, of Bristol, admitted being drunk on the plane in January. Arrest warrants have been issued for his friends.

Times donation

A cheque for £92,499.30 was given to the Diana, Princess of Wales Fund as a result of the decision by *The Times* to contribute 10p for every copy sold on the day of the Princess's funeral. This is part of a total of more than £315,000 that has been given to the fund by News International.

Burglary ordeal

An man aged 80 was left bound and gagged for 40 hours by burglars who broke into his home in Salford, near Manchester. Israel Marks, who was dragged from bed and beaten by the raiders on Friday night, was eventually freed by his sister, who called at his home only by chance at 11am on Sunday.

Claim dropped

The man cleared of murdering Vikki Thompson has dropped his compensation claim against Thames Valley Police. Lawyers told Mark Weston, 22, of Ascot-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire, he had little chance of success.

Patient mystery

A patient was found dead in a hospital washroom 24 hours after he disappeared. Bernard Shannon, 63, is believed to have died from a brain tumour. The Royal Liverpool Hospital denies he could have lain there all the time.

Child killer plea

The parents of Genette Tate, who went missing in 1978, have sent a get-well card to the convicted child killer Robert Black in the hope that he will admit being behind her disappearance. Black suffered a stroke at Wakefield jail.

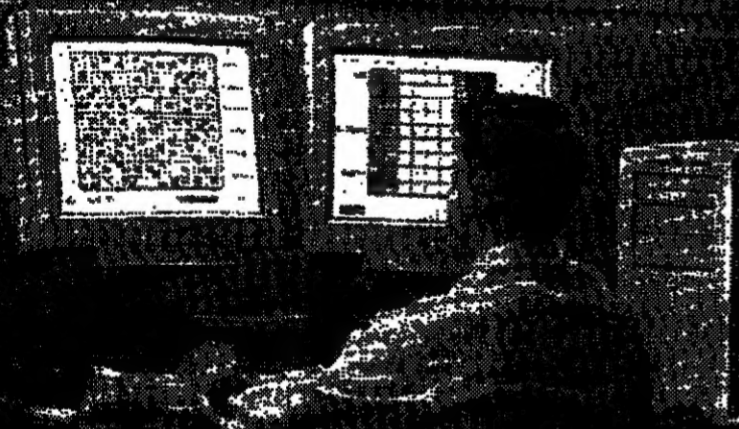
Cycling fine

A racing cyclist has fallen foul of a 150-year-old law designed to curb "furious" carriage driving. Anthony Adams, 24, who is about to attempt a distance record, was fined £120 for cycling at 25mph and not stopping in Cambridge.

Let us pay

A harvest festival service is to be held in a supermarket. About 200 shoppers and staff are expected at the service at Asda's Lower Earley branch in Reading. It will be held before the shop opens on Sunday.

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Taxi driver dies saving stranger from suicide

BY LIN JENKINS

A MAN died after losing his footing as he struggled to save the life of a stranger about to throw herself off a bridge on to rocks.

Kenneth "Archie" Andrews had clambered on to the parapet of the bridge across the River Rhondda as soon as he saw the distraught woman about to jump to her death. He grappled with her, pushed her to safety and into the arms of his friend John Nesbitt, but then slipped and fell 30ft from the iron bridge, landing on rocks at the water's edge.

Police found him face down in the shallow water. He was taken to hospital in Tyny-pandy, South Wales, where he died eight hours later without regaining consciousness, early yesterday.

Mr Nesbitt, 55, still in shock after witnessing his friend's fall, said: "Archie died a hero. We had struggled with the woman and Archie pushed her to safety. The next thing he had disappeared."

Mr Andrews, 56, a taxi driver who leaves two children, may be nominated for a posthumous bravery award. The police paid tribute to his selfless bravery. Inspector Paul Cannon said: "Mr Andrews did not give a second thought for his own safety. He

must have known of the dangers, but did not hesitate. He died a hero."

Friends said the act was typical of Mr Andrews, who had always shown compassion and a willingness to help others. Ray Jones, a neighbour, said: "He was a real Good Samaritan, he would do anything to help anybody. He was well known to everybody in the community. Trying to help this woman was true to character."

The woman was admitted under the Mental Health Act to East Glamorgan General Hospital in Pontypridd.



Kenneth Andrews: police praised his selflessness

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Lib Dems ready to drop 1p tax plan for schools

By JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

THE Liberal Democrats are preparing to drop their flagship policy of raising income tax by a penny to boost education spending. The change is seen as an attempt to bring policy in line with Labour's.

Yesterday Paddy Ashdown and Malcolm Bruce, the Treasury spokesman, took the first step towards abandoning the long-standing policy, insisting that the Liberal Democrats were not in favour of higher taxes for the sake of it. At the risk of angering activists at the party's conference in Eastbourne, the leadership made clear that the education pledge was likely to be abandoned before the next election.

Party advisers argued that, under government forecasts, the nation's finances would improve significantly before the end of this Parliament and the policy to raise extra money for education through taxation would be unnecessary. But the U-turn was regarded as another attempt to cosy up to Labour by abandoning a policy that Tony Blair could not support.

Liberal Democrat advisers admitted that the party was taking a risk by dropping the policy for which it was best known and which most distinguished it from its rivals. "But the greater risk would be to be seen as tax-and-spendites for the sake of it," one said.

Sources close to Mr Bruce said that the party would stick to its election pledge of a 50 per



EASTBOURNE

cent tax rate for those earning more than £100,000. This is intended to allow the tax threshold to be raised, freeing many of those with very low incomes from having to pay.

The Liberal Democrats first proposed putting an extra penny on income tax to raise money for education in 1991. The idea was devised by Mr Ashdown, Alan Beith, then the Treasury spokesman, and Edward Davey, then the party's economic adviser. Mr Davey became MP for Kingston and Surbiton this year.

At the time the leadership argued that Liberal Democrats needed to put forward a policy that was distinctive from those of the Tories and Labour. "The Tories were advocating tax cuts while Labour was proposing higher public spending," one strategist said yesterday.

The Liberal Democrats fought both the 1992 and the 1997 general elections with the tax-rise policy, which they said would provide an extra £2 billion for education. Yesterday sources close to Don Foster, the education spokesman, said that the party had always made clear that the extra penny would be added to

income tax only "if necessary", a phrase that was never used during election campaigns. They argued that in 1993 the party tried subtly to soften its pledge by saying it would commit one penny of income tax to education. But one MP said: "The message was so subtle that the media failed to pick up on it."

Education sources tried to play down any change, arguing that if there were a Budget tomorrow the 1p rise would still be the party's policy. But it is clear that the Liberal Democrats are trying to change their image as a high-tax party, much as Labour did in the five years before this year's general election.

Mr Bruce indicated the shift on taxation in his speech to the conference yesterday. "Of course if finances do dramatically improve, there is no reason why the tax burden should not in time be lightened," he said. "We are not afraid to propose tax rises when they are needed, as they are now, but we are not a party that favours higher taxes for the sake of it."

Mr Ashdown also hinted at the change in an interview with *The Independent* yesterday. Asked about the party's tax-rise policy, he said: "We have to keep that under review. If that is the means by which you can deliver better education, then that is the judgment we should take. If during the course of the next four years - I don't predict it - but there are other things we can do to achieve the same ends, we have got to be prepared to review it."



Peter Lee, chairman of yesterday's youth service debate, challenging Lembit Opik, the youth affairs spokesman, to prove his credentials by naming the Spice Girls. To cheers from the conference floor, Mr Opik, MP for Montgomeryshire, recited off the names, but in the wrong order

'Perform or else' pay call

By JILL SHERMAN

CABINET ministers should have performance-related pay with salary cuts for those who fail to meet their targets, the conference was told.

Malcolm Bruce, the Treasury spokesman, outlined a proposed Public Service Act that would require departments to set performance targets. "Ministers' pay is always controversial," he said. "Some deserve the money, some don't. If standards and promises aren't delivered, failing ministers should take pay cuts too."

Mr Bruce's advisers said later that the performance-related pay would apply to Cabinet ministers rather than their juniors. Decisions about who should have their pay raised or docked could be made by the Prime Minister or by select committees.

Beneath the silly gimmicks is an idea worth looking at

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Forget, for a moment, the Liberal Democrats' obsession with Labour and Tony Blair. What sort of party are the Lib Dems? This is not primarily a question of left or right, those overused and misleading terms. The striking feature of yesterday's debates in Eastbourne was how the Lib Dems are torn — intellectually and politically — between innovation on policy and conservatism in defence of local interests.

One of the charms of the old Liberal Party was its adventurousness, and occasional dotiness, the legacy of the Jo Grimond era. But the party has become tamer under two contrasting influences — first, the sober responsibility of the SDP which has affected the Lib Dems since the merger in 1988, and, second, the expansion of the party's local government base. Not only is the party more cautious, but at the grass roots it has become a strong defender of local council services, and the existing structure of provision.

Paddy Ashdown is aware of the dangers of the Liberal Democrats appearing as the party of producer interests, rather than consumers, and of big government. He knows that voters are wary of any increase in taxes unless they are sure the money is being well spent. After the election proposal for a targeted tax increase, he now wants to move the argument on to changing the role of government, to be less a provider and more a commissioner of services, contracting much of it out. But that clashes with the attachment of many Lib Dems to the existing pattern of provision, especially at a local level. The party has opposed many of the education changes of recent years, such as grant-maintained schools.

These tensions are underlined by yesterday's proposal from Malcolm Bruce, the party's Treasury spokesman, for a new system of "service deliv-

ery agreements" setting out detailed targets and performance criteria. Most attention has focused on his parallel idea of performance-related pay for ministers and senior civil servants, so that failing ministers might lose part of their salary. But this is a silly gimmick. It is impossible to relate the performance of a secretary of state in charge of a vast department to measurable criteria given the uncertainties of politics and events outside any minister's control.

Would David Blunkett's salary be linked to the number of A grades (always creeping upwards) and would Jack Straw's pay be tied to the notoriously unreliable crime statistics? The probability is that any target (fixed by ministers themselves) would be easily achievable or there would have to be loopholes. Much more interesting is Mr

Bruce's underlying suggestion about service contracts.

This is based on the New Zealand experience of government by contract, though in that case it is the more realistic model of contracts between ministers and service providers — for instance, the governor of the central bank in achieving an inflation target. But this approach only works if there is a split between commissioners/purchasers and providers, as in the National Health Service, or a clear framework agreement, as with executive agencies. There would also have to be published performance tables, as with school results. But such changes have generally been opposed by local Lib Dems.

Shorn of its headline-catching elements, Mr Bruce's idea should be taken seriously — but the Lib Dems first have to show they are serious about changing the role of government, rather than defending the status quo.

PETER RIDDELL

Wallace calls for more PR

By POLLY NEWTON
POLITICAL REPORTER

LABOUR was challenged by the Liberal Democrats yesterday to accept proportional representation for council elections in Scotland.

Jim Wallace, the Scottish Liberal Democrat leader, said that his party and the Scottish nationalists had reached agreement on the issue. He

told the party conference: "PR for council elections will be a powerful antidote to the seediness too often associated with Labour-run councils in west Central Scotland — the arrogant exercise of unchallenged power by those who all too often take the electorate for granted."

Mr Wallace said that the joint campaign by Labour, Liberal Democrat and nation-

alist parties for a "yes" vote in referendums on devolution for Scotland and Wales could bring about a "new brand of politics".

He acknowledged that proportional representation for the Scottish parliament might result in coalition government, but emphasised that it was up to the party to ensure that as many Liberal Democrats were elected as possible.

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Solidarity poll victory promises to accelerate economic reform in Poland.

By ROGER BOYES

LESZEK BALCEROWICZ, architect of Poland's ambitious economic reforms, was emerging last night as favourite to be Prime Minister after the political pendulum swung again in favour of the Solidarity movement.

The former communist Government was swept out of power in a surprisingly convincing election defeat. History, it seems, is doomed

to repeat itself. Even Lech Walesa, who made the transition from illegal union leader to democratic President and was then trounced at the ballot box by a communist, was back on form yesterday, declaring his readiness to broker a new anti-communist coalition. This was a typical bit of Walesa chutzpah since only President Kwasniewski — the man who beat Mr Walesa — can undertake such a task. The focus is now on two men: Marian

Krzakowski, a 47-year-old computer studies lecturer who runs the AWS Solidarity grouping (essentially the union and about three dozen tiny conservative parties), and Professor Balcerowicz, who leads the Freedom Union.

Mr Kwasniewski said he considered Professor Balcerowicz as a strong candidate for Prime Minister. Traditionally, however, the President is supposed to approach a representative of the biggest

party for the post and commission him or her to find a suitable government line-up. Reliable projections give the AWS more than 33 per cent of the vote while the Freedom Union gained about 13 per cent, enough to form a stable government and, in effect, stick together the broken porcelain of the old Solidarity movement which includes many former dissidents. The nightmare scenario for Western investors was

a coalition between AWS and the PSL Peasant Party which in their view would have slowed reform, made negotiations with the European Union difficult and handed out subsidies to industry and farmers alike.

The election result is not bad for Poland's relations with the West. The shrivelling of the Peasant Party, now claiming less than 7 per cent of the popular vote, is regarded as a positive feature by reformers.

The party, far more resistant to change than its senior coalition partner, the communists, would have made life a misery for any government negotiating with Brussels on the terms of European entry.

Horse trading between the AWS and the Freedom Union is likely to be difficult. Professor Balcerowicz, a reluctant politician who was only just learning to kiss babies, wants to complete privatisation by 2000

and bring down inflation and the budget deficit even faster than over the past four years.

The AWS does not have a clear economic programme but has to satisfy the demands of two million union members. The potential flashpoints will be in the mining and steel industries where Professor Balcerowicz would like to introduce radical cuts.

Leading article, page 19

Surgery 'paves way for face transplant'

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THE case of a woman who had her face sewn back on after it was torn off in an accident may prepare the way for face transplants, the Australian surgeon who carried out the operation said yesterday.

Professor Wayne Morrison said he considered it "a dry run" for full facial transplants, and might even allow someone else's face to be attached to a head. "Theoretically it could happen and technically it could happen now," he said in an interview with *The Times*. "We have demonstrated it can be done. It's not hypothetical anymore."

His forecast followed an operation on a mother, 28, who lost her face and scalp when she caught her hair in milking machinery on a farm near Shepparton, Victoria. Though she was left with only her chin, left ear and lower lip,

the rest of her facial features and scalp were recovered from the machinery, packed in ice, and subsequently sewn back on to her skull.

Professor Morrison, who led a team of surgeons at St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne, in the 25-hour operation, said the only immediate problem was one of rejection. "The skin is designed to be highly resistant to transplantation, and so you would have to have very powerful drugs to prevent rejection — it's a long way off," he said. Even so, the prospect of taking a dead person's face and draping it over the skull of a living man or woman was now much closer, the professor said. "It is simply like changing the cloth of an old armchair."

But to what extent would the actual face change? Although there would clearly be a difference, Professor Morri-

son pointed out that much of human physiognomy is based on what takes place beneath. "The facial expression and the movement of the face is more to do with what is underneath the skin, and the patient you transplant a face on to would retain that sort of movement," he said.

The grisly nature of the operation, which Professor Morrison described as the most horrific thing he had ever seen, has added topicality in Australia at the moment, after the opening of the new John Travolta thriller, *Face/Off*. The plot involves two people whose faces are swapped by surgeons.

The more immediate question is whether the remarkable techniques employed at St Vincent's might soon find favour with cosmetic plastic surgeons. Professor Morrison is cautious about the prospects

and cites ethical problems as a cause for concern.

"You wouldn't be talking about a whole face, but ears or noses or facial segments such as foreheads," he said.

The more likely application is among those patients whose facial skin is completely destroyed in a fire or other accident. "In that sort of circumstance, it would be almost justifiable to transplant from somebody else as soon as there is a breakthrough in immunology, if only so that the patient can be rescued from a life of being a social recluse," the professor said.

The woman patient was continuing to recover in hospital last night, and was in a stable condition. Though there are still doubts over her scalp, Professor Morrison said he was "fairly confident" that all the face would survive.

Blood supply is key to scalp recovery

THE Australian woman's injuries are now comparatively rare, but were common in Britain from the time of the Industrial Revolution until various Factory Acts ensured adequate cover for moving machinery, and scarves for the operators. A headscarf, which became part of the uniform of female factory workers was worn principally to keep hair out of machinery.

Bailey & Love, a standard surgical textbook, reports that even when the scalp has been completely avulsed — forcibly torn away — it can be sewn back into position, provided it

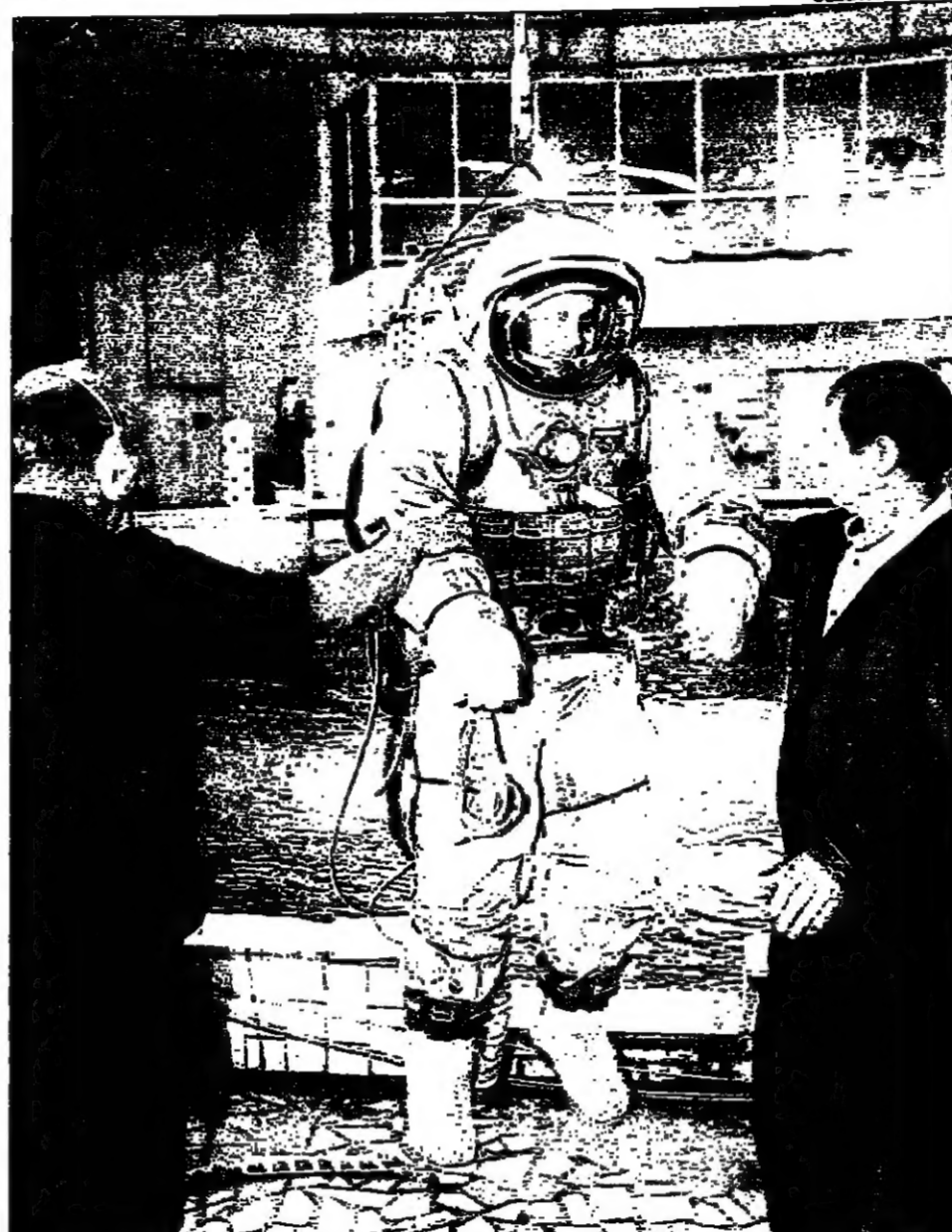
has been carefully cleaned, and very often this results in a satisfactory restoration. The Australian case is different, as the face, as well as the scalp, had to be restored.

The blood supply to the scalp is excellent but, when it is cut, the fibrous tissue holds the blood vessels open, and as a result blood loss is usually

heavy. However, the vigorous blood supply does make recovery more likely. Professor Wayne Morrison, an internationally renowned microsurgeon who led the surgical team in Australia, has expressed himself pleased with the woman's post-operative condition. Even so, he expects that she will need further

cosmetic surgery to improve the final result. Today it is surgeons who are most likely to scalp somebody. In cranio-facial surgery, and in the sub-periosteal facelift, when the scalp may be separated and peeled down over the face just as if taking off a stocking. In surgery, the main arteries and veins are left intact, whereas Professor Morrison would have had to rejoin those which had been torn by the accident.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD



Astronaut David Wolf undergoes tests in preparation for his stay on board Mir

Mir computer crashes again

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW



Wolf: he is being sent to replace Michael Foale

RUSSIA'S Mir space station suffered a series of new failures yesterday, including a computer breakdown which may threaten a relief flight by the US shuttle *Atlantis*.

Russian officials were forced to admit the new setbacks on the very day that a high-ranking NASA delegation arrived in Moscow to discuss safety on the 11-year-old orbiter. Anatoli Solovov, Mir's commander, said all non-essential systems, including oxygen generators and gyroscopes, had been shut down after the computer crashed for the third time this month. Fluid, probably fuel, was leaking from the Soyuz capsule. The latest mishap could not

have happened at a worse time. *Atlantis* is due to be launched on Thursday carrying with it a new computer and a replacement astronaut, David Wolf, who will take over from Michael Foale, the British-born astronaut. NASA yesterday continued preparations for the *Atlantis* countdown while monitoring the latest Mir problems.

Only last week James Sensenbrenner, a Republican congressional science committee member, recalling *Challenger*, asked: "What will it take for Russia to decide that Mir has passed its prime or the United States to determine that it is not safe? Does someone have to get killed?"

Mt Cook offered to Maoris in £68m land deal

FROM CATHIE BELL IN WELLINGTON

THE New Zealand Government is to offer the Maori Ngai Tahu tribe NZ\$170 million (£68 million) and the highest mountain in New Zealand as part of settling grievances that go back more than 100 years.

Doug Graham, the Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations Minister, and Sir Tipene O'Regan, the Ngai Tahu chief negotiator, yesterday initiated the Government's formal offer of settlement at a ceremony in Wellington.

The 1,800-page offer, which took six years to negotiate, includes an apology by the Government for the failings of earlier administrations. Under the formal offer, the Government is to pay the Ngai Tahu NZ\$170 million plus interest and will hand over ownership of the west coast riverbed where New Zealand greenstone or *ponamu* (a type of jade) is mined.

New Zealand's highest mountain, Mount Cook, will be returned to the Ngai Tahu and under the negotiated agreement the Ngai Tahu will on the same day donate it to the nation. From then, the mountain will be known as Aorangi-Mt Cook.

The 30,000-member tribe will now vote whether to accept the offer. If they do, legislation will be passed to ratify it.

The Ngai Tahu offer is the third made to a Maori tribe to resolve grievances. The only one to be settled, with the North Island Tainui tribe, was completed 18 months ago at a cost of NZ\$140 million.

Under the 1840 Treaty of Waitangi Maori and Europeans were to be in equal partnership.

□ Royal assent: More than half of New Zealanders surveyed in a poll published yesterday wish to remain in a monarchy. The poll showed that only 33 per cent of those polled wished New Zealand to become a republic.

REWARDING TIMES

PLAY PORTFOLIO £200,000 TO BE WON

£2,000 TO BE WON TODAY — TURN TO THE EQUITY PAGE 32

This week we launch a new Portfolio, an exciting opportunity to play the stock market without getting your fingers burnt. You can win £2,000 a day six days a week in *The Times*, and you can play every Sunday in *The Sunday Times* to win £5,000. Better still, there is a £10,000 weekly prize, if you play Portfolio in both papers, seven days a week. A second gamecard was inserted in yesterday's *Times*. Playing Portfolio is easy and fun. Every week companies' share prices go up and down in the real world of the Stock Exchange. So you can experience the excitement of the stock market swings, but without taking any risks.

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THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES

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The weekly accumulator game started in *The Times* yesterday. To play the weekly accumulator game you simply add up your daily Portfolio totals, Monday to Sunday. If your accumulator total matches exactly the weekly portfolio accumulator dividend, published in the *The Sunday Times*, you win or share the weekly accumulator prize of £10,000.

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*You can get a Portfolio card by calling the card request line on 0171-481 3355 during normal office hours. Cards are also available at selected newsagents.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Kohl sees good omen in Hamburg election

Frankfurt: Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, hailed his party's increased share of the vote in Sunday's Hamburg election as a positive signal for general elections late next year (Deborah Colclutt writes).

Speaking after his Christian Democratic Union picked up 30.7 per cent of the vote — up from 25.1 in the 1993 elections — Herr Kohl said in Bonn that voters were sending a clear message to the opposition Social Democrats, who narrowly clung on to power. He rejected claims that voters in Hamburg were "weary of politics" and did not go to the polls. He said the turnout of almost 70 per cent was average for German elections.

New Montserrat warning

After new eruptions of gas and molten rock on Montserrat, Anthony Abbot, the island's new British Governor, is urging a handful of die-hard residents to evacuate an exclusion zone around the slopes of the Soufriere Hills volcano (David Adams writes). He has hinted for the first time that people may be forced to go. Dozens of residents have stayed in the area, partly because of a lack of housing in the safe northern end of the island.

Plea to halt sodomy case

Harare: The trial of Canaan Banana, Zimbabwe's former head of state, on sodomy charges was adjourned until today for further legal argument in the High Court (Michael Hartnack writes). Chris Andersen, defending, asked Mr Justice Feargus Blackie to stop the trial because he claimed that the right of Dr Banana, a theologian, to a fair trial had been compromised by a sensational press campaign which assumed he was guilty.

Japanese leader apologises

Tokyo: In an unprecedented act of public contrition, Ryutaro Hashimoto, Japan's Prime Minister, apologised for appointing a bribe-taker to his Cabinet, an "impermissible error of judgment" (Robert Whymant writes). The apology followed the dismissal of Koko Sato, who was appointed chief of the Management and Co-ordination Agency on September 11. Mr Sato was convicted during the 1970s Lockheed plane purchase scandal.

Fatted cats saved by whisker

Lima: Fifty household cats due to be eaten at a food festival in a town south of here were saved when health authorities intervened after protests from the Peruvian Humane Society and hundreds of cat lovers. The First Gastronomic Festival of the Cat had promised diners various feline-based dishes. (AFP)



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Bhutto's Swiss accounts 'have drug cash link'

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN KARACHI

PAKISTANI investigators say they have evidence that part of the frozen Swiss bank accounts of Benazir Bhutto and her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, are linked to drug money.

Saifur Rahman, a senator heading the Government's accountability unit, said authorities had documentary proof that millions of dollars which were deposited in the overseas bank accounts of the former Prime Minister and members of her family were acquired by criminal means.

The Swiss Government last week ordered the freezing of the bank accounts of six companies reportedly owned by Miss Bhutto, her husband, and her mother, Begum Nusrat Bhutto, for three months at Pakistan's request.

The Swiss bank accounts reportedly contain around £40 million which, Pakistani authorities say, were deposited by the former Prime Minister and her family members.

"We can prove a part of that money is drug-related," said the senator in an interview with a national English language newspaper, *The News*. Mr Rahman, the chief investigator, hinted that Miss Bhutto and Mr Zardari may face further criminal charges.

The latest charge against

the former Prime Minister that she was linked to drug money has given a new turn to the financial scandal, perhaps the biggest in Pakistan's history.

Pakistani authorities claim that the former First Couple had acquired property and bank accounts worth \$1 billion in nine overseas countries, including Switzerland, Britain, France and America. Pakistan has also requested London and Washington to freeze the couple's accounts.

Mr Rahman said the Government had been assured of co-operation if Pakistan could provide evidence that the money was acquired through illegal means. According to him, the British Government was keen to know whether that included drug money.

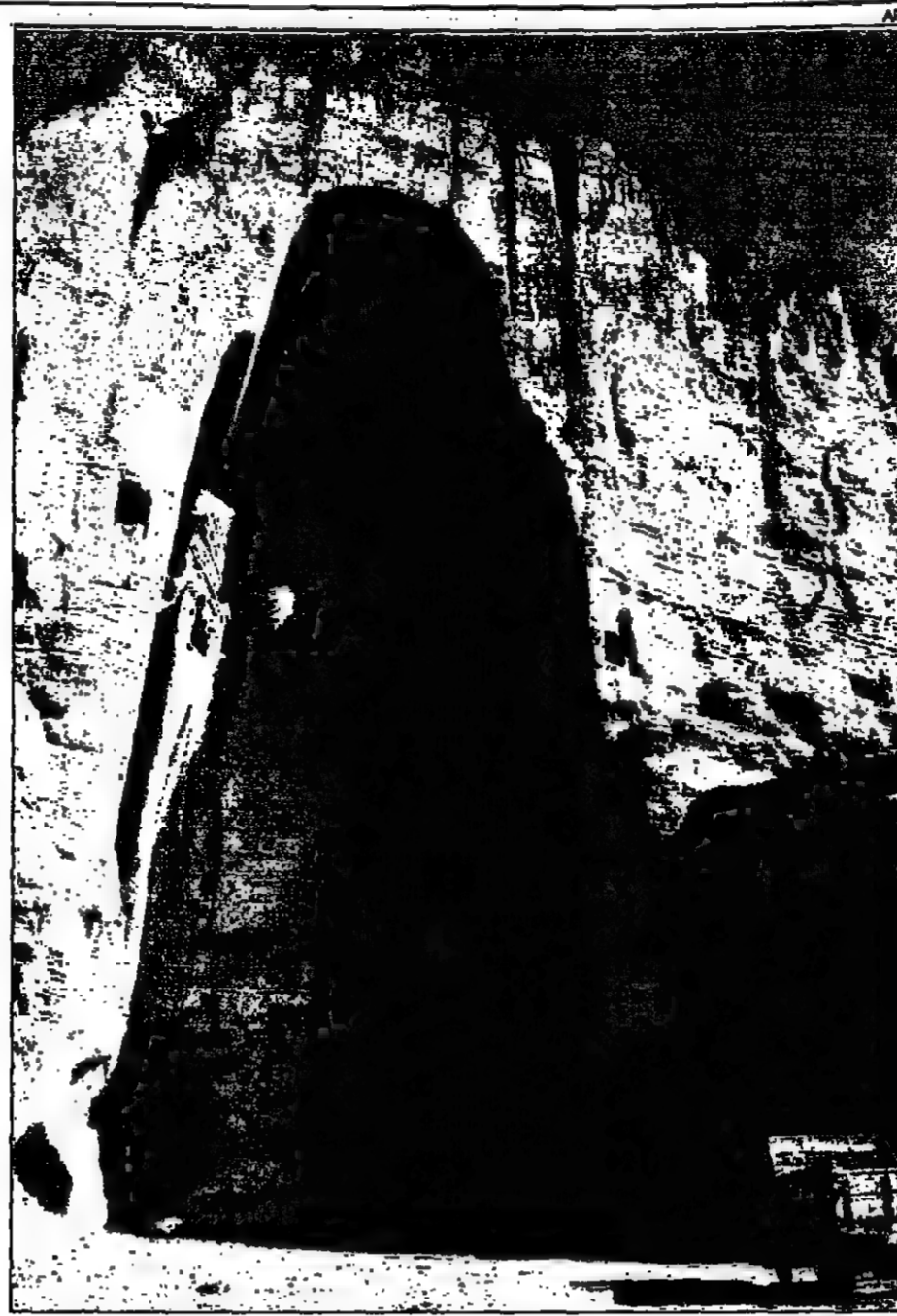
"We believe that we can prove some of it," he said.

Money was allegedly acquired from commissions received by Mr Zardari for granting government contracts and licences. A former Minister of Investment, Mr Zardari was known as "Mr 10 per cent". He was arrested last year after the dismissal of Miss Bhutto's Government and he is facing trial on various charges ranging from murder to corruption and

misuse of power. The scandal has dealt a serious blow to Miss Bhutto's opposition Pakistan's People's Party, which is still reeling from its humiliating defeat in the last parliamentary election. Miss Bhutto defended herself by saying that she came from a rich family and can own property and bank accounts. "They have to prove that I and my family members have committed any crime," she said.

Miss Bhutto is alleged to have paid less than \$1,500 in income tax last year while Mr Zardari, reputed to be the richest man in Pakistan, paid slightly more than \$2,000. The amount is less than what an ordinary civil servant pays. The investigators maintain that Miss Bhutto could not justify the massive amounts in her bank accounts.

If convicted, Miss Bhutto could be disqualified from participating in politics for seven years and may also face a jail sentence. It would be the first time in the country's history that a former Prime Minister was disqualified on corruption charges. Most political observers believe that it may be the end of the Bhutto political dynasty, which dominated Pakistani politics for three decades.



The Buddha statue at Bamiyan in Afghanistan, threatened by Taliban fighters

UN plea to save Afghan art from war and plunder

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

THE United Nations is appealing for international action to save what is left of Afghanistan's cultural heritage, much of it smashed or plundered by warlords who have sold priceless artefacts for a song. Almost all that remains to be saved is architecture: everything portable has disappeared.

The world's biggest statue of the Buddha in the standing pose, in the Bamiyan valley, 150 miles northwest of Kabul, is surrounded by minefields, threatening serious damage to the 1,600-year-old weather-beaten relic. Its face was obliterated by Gen. Ghis Khan's hordes in the 13th century. A crack in the fragile 160ft monument, carved out of a sandstone cliff, widened after a recent bombing raid.

A commander of the Taliban Islamic militia, which controls much of Afghanistan, threatened in April to destroy the giant Buddha, as well as a smaller one nearby, if he captured the Bamiyan region. He said the country should be cleared of everything un-Islamic.

Buddhism spread through Asia from Bamiyan, in the Hindu Kush mountains, and as late as the 8th century Chinese pilgrims reported an abundance of priests and temples in the region. The carvings were made during a Buddhist revival in India in

the 3rd and 4th centuries. Afghanistan has a unique heritage because of its location at the crossroads of Asia, and the museum collection in Kabul was described in an old official handbook as "one of the greatest testimonies of antiquity that the world has inherited". The first item visitors used to see was a marble fountain bowl, found near the tomb of Emperor Babur in Kabul, which bore his name. That, like everything else, is missing.

The museum was raided during a siege of Kabul in May 1993. Safes holding treasures were blown open with explosives, destroying many of the contents. Wealthy Pakistani politicians bought some of the loot, which mostly ended up in the world's auction rooms.

It is still possible to find pieces of ancient pottery around the shattered museum — the remains of articles smashed by gunmen who considered them worthless.

In a statement issued in Pakistan, Federico Mayor, director-general of Unesco, appealed to the international community to take action to preserve Afghanistan cultural heritage for present and future generations.

This seems a forlorn hope. There is a lull in fighting around Kabul, 60 per cent of which is rubble, but the war is intensifying in the north.

Flawed Serbian polls leave Milosevic pulling strings behind scenes

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE



Milosevic in charge

SERBIA was bound for a constitutional crisis yesterday after Slobodan Milosevic's puppet candidate for the presidency appeared to have failed to win an outright majority confirming him in office. Opposition parties threatened to throw the country into a process of unresolved elections by boycotting a second round of voting.

Mr Milosevic's Socialist coalition

seemed also to have fallen short of a parliamentary majority and the outcome of Sunday's presidential and parliamentary elections has merely confirmed the chronic divisions within Serbian society.

One man is in charge — Mr Milosevic. In his new post, as Yugoslav federal President, he is theoretically removed from Serbian politics, but there is little doubt that deals with him will be required if Serbia is to have a viable government. He remained silent yesterday,

as did Zoran Ljilic, his Socialist protégé and the presidential frontrunner. Vojislav Seselj, the ultra-nationalist in second place, also refrained from comment.

Vuk Draskovic, the veteran opposition leader and novelist whose dreams of becoming President seem dashed, said Serbia faced a "parliamentary crisis", adding that a second round left voters with a choice between fascism and communism.

With counting continuing, the

Republic Election Commission said just over 60 per cent of the 7.2 million electorate had voted. With roughly two thirds of votes accounted for, Mr Ljilic had about 35 per cent, Mr Seselj 27 per cent and Mr Draskovic 22 per cent, in a field of 27 candidates.

In the 250-seat parliament, Mr Milosevic's Socialist coalition was set to fall short of the 126 seats it needed for control, and analysts expected a deal between the coalition and Mr Seselj's far Right. The

Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which was monitoring the poll, hinted that the elections were deeply flawed, without being specific. "There's a very bad smell, but the problem is you don't know where it's coming from," said one insider.

OSCE legal experts said many problems stemmed from Serbia's electoral laws, judged vague even by Balkan standards. The mechanics of voting also seemed open to manipulation; ballot papers were

not numbered, for example, and were easily copied. A second round of voting for the presidency would normally be in two weeks' time.

A spokesman for Mr Draskovic said his Serbian Renewal Movement might be forced to call for a boycott, fearful not of a Ljilic victory but of Mr Seselj gaining from voters anxious to elect anyone but a Socialist. "Seselj is a very dangerous man," he said. "He would start a new war in Bosnia and fight for a greater Serbia."

Children to cost £100,000 each

No, it's not a new tax on children. Worse, this is the real cost you can expect to spend bringing up a child if you are an ordinary family on an average income. And that's after you've taken child benefit into account.

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These shock findings come from 'What Price a Child?', an investigative study into the cost of child-rearing by well-known consumer journalist and broadcaster Jan Walsh.

Startling fact number 1

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UN leader puts Clinton on spot over \$1.5bn debt

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, upstaged President Clinton at the start of a new UN General Assembly session yesterday by insisting that Washington pay its UN debts without conditions.

Mr Annan broke with protocol to make a direct appeal to the 185-member assembly only minutes before Mr Clinton took the floor to plead his case for compromise on American arrears. Though the soft-spoken Mr Annan delivered his unprecedented address to UN members with diplomatic tact, there was no mistaking his pointed message to the United States, which has a UN debt approaching \$1.5 billion (£930 million).

"Some of you I ask to do what your legal obligations require: to liquidate your arrears, and to pay your future assessments in full, on time

and without conditions," he said. The Clinton Administration, working with the Republican-controlled Congress, has proposed a compromise under which America would hand over \$900 million in full payment of its UN debt and pay a smaller share of the organisation's budget in future.

Emphasising the American commitment to a revitalised UN for the next century, Mr Clinton told an audience of sceptical world leaders that they should accept Washington's offer. "This year, for the first time since I have been President, we have an opportunity to put the question of debts and dues behind us once and for all, and to put the United Nations on a sounder financial footing for the future," Mr Clinton said.

He appealed for UN members to adopt a "more equitable

scale of assessment" — diplomatic code for cutting America's dues from 25 per cent to 20 per cent of the UN budget, which Congress has set as a condition for making even a partial payment of the debt.

The row threatens to dominate this year's General Assembly, arousing resentment among other countries as Mr Annan pushes forward with US-inspired reforms.

In his speech to the General Assembly today, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, is expected to join other US allies in criticising Washington's terms for paying off its debts.

A British official emphasised, however, how difficult it would be to get the United States to sweeten its offer. "The aim is to get the American package improved and you can only do that with the consent of Congress," he said.



Tipper Gore, wife of Al Gore, the US Vice-President, with children at School 1634 in Moscow's Sokolniki district yesterday. Mr Gore is visiting Russia for talks with Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister

FBI joins hunt for missing tycoon

New York: A hundred FBI agents have joined the search for a New Jersey millionaire who vanished after withdrawing a large amount of cash from a bank (James Bone writes).

Nelson Gross, 65, a former Republican politician whose wife is an heiress to the Guggenheim fortune, disappeared last Wednesday. His family, who fear that he has been kidnapped, have offered a \$100,000 (£62,500) reward for information leading to his safe return.

A security camera at a bank in Edgewater, New Jersey, videotaped Mr Gross and an unidentified man withdrawing \$20,000 from his account. The two drove off with a third man in Mr Gross's car, which was later found abandoned.

By chance, Mr Gross's son, Neil, saw his father in the car and called him on his cell phone. "It's business. It's just business," his father replied, and then hung up.

Michael Gross, his brother, said he thought the lawyer and property developer was in "serious trouble".

White House woes increase with tax harassment claim

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE Clinton Administration is bracing itself for another round of politically inflammatory hearings today when a number of tax inspectors will allege that the Internal Revenue Service routinely abuses and bullies taxpayers.

Testifying behind screens, and with their voices altered to conceal their identity further, the tax inspectors are expected to claim that the agency compels its employees to meet collection quotas and promotes those who close the most cases.

Nearly 42 per cent of the \$13.2 billion (£8.2 billion) in IRS penalties assessed against taxpayers last year was eliminated after the fines were challenged. But the Senate inquiry is expected to show that the agency deliberately targets individuals who lack the resources to defend themselves.

"In certain divisions, IRS employees tend to be judged by how many seizures, how many liens have been made and how much money they are collecting per hour," said William Roth, Republican chairman of the Senate finance committee.

The White House views his three days of hearings starting today as a politically motivated

attempt to link the Administration to an agency long seen as a curse of big government by many Americans. The theatrical use of anonymous witnesses is certain to lend added melodrama to a week of intensifying partisan conflict on Capitol Hill.

In addition to the Senate hearings, Congress is conducting a separate inquiry into whether the Clinton Administration is using the IRS to target political enemies, a tactic deployed to great effect under President Kennedy.

The chairman of the legal fund for Paula Jones, the former Arkansas state employee who is suing the President for sexual harassment, said last week that Mrs Jones had been audited for the first time only five days after refusing an out-of-court settlement in her case.

Allegations of deliberate harassment by the agency have since been vehemently denied by the White House but Mrs Jones and conservative groups such as the Heritage Foundation and the National Rifle Association, also subject to sudden tax inspection, are certain to be brought to centre-stage by Republican members of Mr Roth's committee.



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Israeli guards shot in Jordan ambush

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

SUSPECTED Islamic militants yesterday wounded two Israeli security guards in a breakfast-time ambush in Amman, the Jordanian capital, and issued a death threat against "Zionist tourists" visiting the normally tranquil Hashemite Kingdom.

The shooting was the first against Israeli officials since peace was signed in 1994. A Jordanian Cabinet minister said that Israeli guards had returned fire at the escaping car containing the three gunmen, possibly wounding one, adding: "Jordan condemns very strongly this sort of cowardly... terrorist action."

Last night Israel radio reported that Moshe Katsav, the Israeli Tourism Minister and acting Prime Minister in the absence abroad of Benjamin Netanyahu, had called on the Jordanian authorities to step up security protection for Israelis in Jordan, mainly diplomats and tourists.

Jordanian hospital officials said that both guards had been lightly wounded in the attack. One was operated on to remove two bullets from his legs and the other, also with leg injuries, was discharged from hospital in Amman.

A previously unknown group calling itself the Islamic Resistance in Jordan swiftly claimed the attack and issued the death threat.

Western diplomats expressed concern that the ambush signified a spread of the type of Islamic terrorism seen recently in Israel and Egypt to Jordan, where the Government has imposed harsh press laws to try to clamp down on hostility to the peace treaty in

opposition papers. The well-planned ambush came as the wider Middle East peace process was facing a mounting crisis, and less than two months before Jordanian parliamentary elections which are being boycotted by the Muslim Brotherhood and nine opposition parties.

The attack was mounted in the smart residential district of Deir Ghbar, where the American Embassy and the homes of several Israeli diplomats are located. The gunmen appeared to have good intelligence as the Israelis were travelling in an unmarked Jordanian hire car.

Amman-based diplomats said that the attack reflected growing popular discontent among Jordanians — more than 60 per cent of whom are of Palestinian origin — with the peace treaty that many argue has failed to bring the economic benefits originally claimed for it by King Hussein.

□ Cairo: The prosecutor's office said an Egyptian charged with attacking a tourist bus in the capital was aware of his actions and was not mad, as officials had earlier said.

Security sources said that Saber Farahat Abu el-Ela, one of two men arrested after the attack which killed nine Germans and an Egyptian last Thursday, told police he believed in the ideology of Muslim militants seeking to topple the Government of President Mubarak.

The sources said Mr Abu el-Ela confessed that he gave a doctor \$8,750 to fake a certificate saying he was mentally unstable. (Reuters)



An aerial view of Bill Gates's mansion during its construction near Seattle. It includes a 20-seat cinema and a garage for 30 cars

Gates demands tax cut on \$50m mansion

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK



Gates' dream home

INSTALLED in his new computer-controlled dream home outside Seattle, Bill Gates is seeking a reduction in his property taxes because the \$50 million (£31 million) mansion is too expensive for any other buyers.

The Microsoft mogul, whose \$38 billion fortune makes him the world's richest businessman, is reportedly negotiating with the local council for a cut in the tax assessment, which is based

on the value of the property. Susan Moran of the local tax assessor's office said: "When a house is that lavishly constructed and unique in style, there aren't many buyers who could afford or would want it."

Mr Gates' five-acre estate in the Seattle suburb of Medina is the most extravagant private residence built in America since William Randolph Hearst, the press baron, completed his hilltop retreat in California. It was first planned as a bachelor pad but was modified when

Mr Gates married Melinda French, and the couple had a daughter. It took seven years to build.

The 40,000 sq ft mansion, on the shore of Lake Washington and built largely of wood and glass in the environmentally conscious "Pacific Northwest" style, has state-of-the-art technology.

As long ago as 1984, Mr Gates told a reporter that he dreamt of a home controlled by a computer like the space ship run by Hal in the film 2001: A Space Odyssey. Guests will be given indi-

vidual code numbers that automatically signal their preferences for music, lighting, air-conditioning and even art. Mr Gates has purchased electronic rights to many artworks in museums around the world so that digitised images can be displayed on high-resolution television screens and on a 24-monitor video wall in the main reception room.

The estate, arranged in pavilions linked by tunnels, contains a 20-seat cinema, a health spa, a trout stream and a 30-car garage.

Australia airlifts aid to Papua drought victims

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THE Royal Australian Air Force yesterday began a four-day operation to ferry food and medical supplies to remote drought-stricken areas in the Western Highlands of Papua New Guinea.

The emergency airlift followed growing fears for the welfare of thousands of

people, who face starvation after crop failures. At least 60 people have died.

A Royal Australian Air Force Hercules transport plane was due to take off for the country's mountainous interior last night. The remote and inhospitable terrain is virtually inaccessible by land.

The Australian crew will fly medicine and food to Tabubil township, which is close to the

giant Ok Tedi copper mine, and drop further supplies to communities near the border with Irian Jaya, which has also been badly affected by drought conditions. John Howard, the Australian Prime

Minister, pledged further assistance to the region on top of the £250,000 which has already been committed.

□ Jakarta: Indonesia has accepted an offer from Malaysia to send more than 1,200

firefighters and medical personnel to help deal with forest fires that have produced choking smoke over the region. Azwar Anas, the Social Welfare Minister, said yesterday. (AP)

Lebed backed on 'lost' nuclear bombs

FROM ROBIN LOOGE IN MOSCOW

RECENT allegations by Alexander Lebed, the outspoken Russia opposition general, that more than 100 nuclear bombs are missing have been backed by the country's most prominent environmentalist, a former adviser to President Yeltsin.

Earlier this month, General Lebed told the CBS American television network that Russia had lost track of some of its mini-bombs, each about the size of a suitcase, carrying a nuclear device capable of killing up to 100,000 people.

The allegations were immediately denied by the Defence Ministry and by Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, who said that all such devices were accounted for and held in safety by the armed forces.

But yesterday's edition of the weekly newspaper Novaya Gazeta published a letter from Aleksei Yablokov, an energetic environmental campaigner who was sacked from Mr Yeltsin's administration earlier this year, saying that General Lebed's assertions were far from groundless.

Professor Yablokov, a highly respected figure whose fight for environmental causes goes back to Soviet times, said that the armed forces were unlikely to keep records of weapons manufactured specially for the Soviet KGB during the 1970s.

The KGB kept suitcase bombs of the kind that were mentioned by General Lebed for possible use in terrorist attacks, he said. "These nuclear charges were not included in the nuclear arsenals of the Defence Ministry, so could have been excluded from the process of disarmament negotiations," Professor Yablokov wrote. "So it seems that the statement by Alexander Lebed is far from nonsensical."

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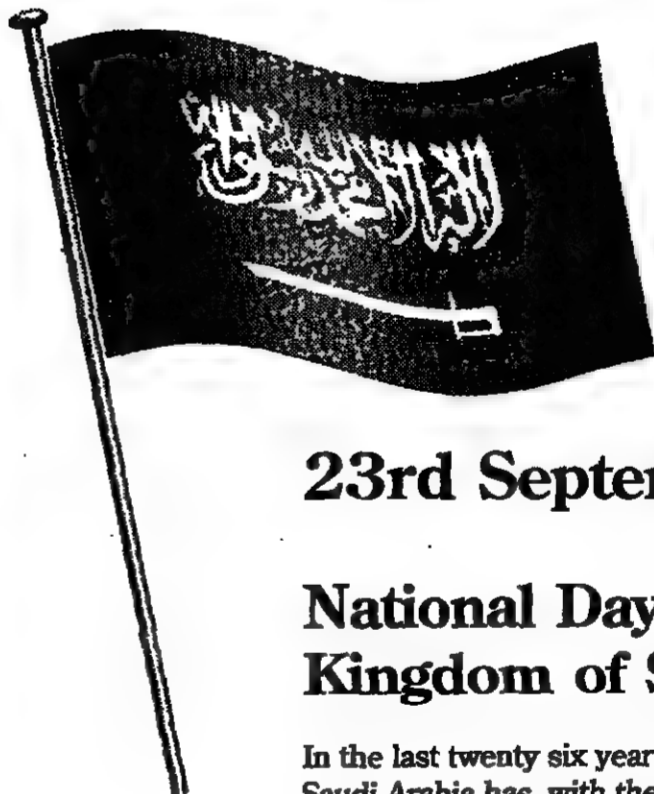
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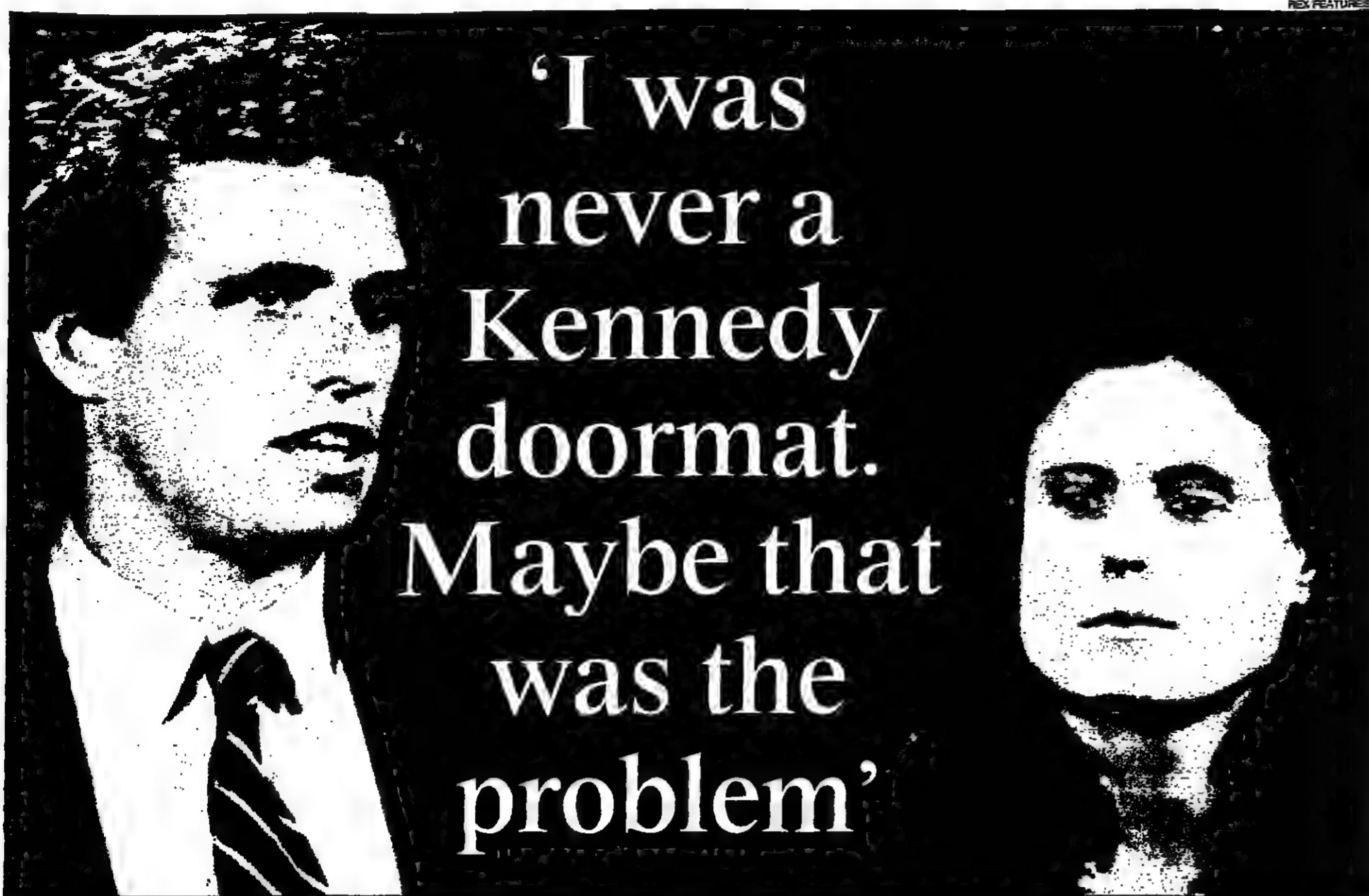
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Congressman Joseph Kennedy has dismissed his former wife Sheila's opposition to the annulment of their marriage as tiresome quibbling. However, the Pope has the final say

For 12 years Sheila Rauch was married to a Kennedy crown prince, Congressman Joseph Patrick Kennedy II, the eldest son of Robert and Ethel Kennedy.

Then, in 1991, Sheila filed for divorce, describing their marriage as having disintegrated to the point where it had become unsalvageable. They both retained custody of their twin sons, Matthew and Joseph, born in 1980. Sheila moved out of the family home and worked part-time as an urban planning consultant. Joe married Beth Kelly, his personal assistant.

Two years passed without incident. Then, during the 1993 Easter holidays, Sheila received a letter, stamped with the seal of the Roman Catholic Church. After reading it, she was so shocked she rushed to the lavatory and vomited. In

Joseph Kennedy has told his ex-wife, Sheila, that he intends to annul their marriage. But she is fighting back. Interview by Noreen Taylor

unemotional terms, the letter announced that her ex-husband intended to have their marriage annulled. Joe Kennedy was preparing to appear before a church court to declare their marriage invalid, swearing that it was never a true marriage in the first place. He was doing so in order to have his new marriage sanctified by the Church. For Sheila, it is as if the letter arrived yesterday and her voice rings with outrage: "I have no problem with divorce. What I cannot condone is a process that will declare my children to be the offspring of a marriage that had never existed."

Despite not being a Catholic, she decided to dig in her

heels. She was not going to sacrifice her sons' right to legitimacy within a "blessed union". She would not tamely accept the annulment, nor would she remain quiet.

Soon after launching her fightback, she discovered that hers was not an isolated case. Hundreds of women were struggling in secrecy against annulment. But this process is a secret no longer because Sheila has written a book, *Shattered Faith*, about her experiences and those of five other women.

The problem stems from the contradiction between the Catholic Church's refusal to recognise divorce and its desire to show compassion to divorcees who wish to remar-

ry. Since the 12th century it has relied on annulment in which broken marriages are, after proper investigation, deemed never to have occurred.

The American Catholic Church grants more than 60,000 annulments a year, three quarters of the annual world total. Many are uncontested, but hundreds of women who wrote to Sheila to sympathise with her predicament told of their own anguish.

They argued that they had been victimised by their Church's abdication of its moral responsibility to protect and promote the family. Joe Kennedy did not see it like that. This scion of American Ca-

tholicism's first family was anxious to stabilise his own standing within the Church. He dismissed his former wife's opposition as tiresome quibbling. During their first phone call after she had received the letter, he asked angrily: "How can you do this, prevent me from getting on with my life?"

When Sheila protested about the meaning of annulment, Joe replied: "I don't believe this stuff. Nobody actually believes it. It's just Catholic gobbledegook." Joe has lived to regret those words which are the centrepiece to the first chapter of *Shattered Faith*. After publication, he pulled out of the race for the governorship of Massachusetts.

Such an outcome is not what Sheila intended. She is anxious not to portray any bitterness towards the Kennedys with whom she remains on friendly terms, nor to project her book as the outpouring of a vengeful, abandoned wife. "My anger is reserved for the hypocrisy of the Church, for its flagrant lack of regard for the truth," she says.

Not for her ex-husband who brought the action in the first place? "I can't rationalise Joe's actions. He wants our marriage annulled so he can marry Beth in church. He also wants to be able to receive Communion, go to confession, and I'm not unsympathetic to those needs. But he could go to a church outside Boston and receive the sacraments, to some place where he is not instantly recognisable. Plenty of priests are sympathetic to the plight of people like Joe and Beth."

Sheila, 48, Episcopalian and Harvard-educated, faces my questions with her arms drawn protectively around herself, yet she is more candid than expected. "Our marriage ended through choice, not because the union had never been morally validated. Joe and I had known each other for nine years before we married. As a couple we were very different people, yet those differences were, I thought, part of our strengths as a couple. During the early years we lived a relatively ordinary domestic life in the country and had what I'd describe as a very good marriage."

"Life began to change when Joe ran for Congress. He was always willing to listen, understand, to compromise. That side of him vanished when he entered Washington life."

"When Joe used to come home for weekends from Congress, I noticed an inability to behave as an ordinary family member. All week he would be surrounded with people who believed he could walk on water. Sharing household chores was beyond him. It wasn't as though we could sit down and discuss these problems. I did not feature in his weekend diary."

"I suppose if he'd said 'Let me look at the schedule, see if we can have lunch or dinner this week', then perhaps certain problems could have been solved. But such opportunities simply never arose. I didn't join him in the campaign because I couldn't bring myself to leave the children for

such long periods of time." It was a notable contrast to her mother-in-law, Ethel Kennedy, who left her 11 children in the care of nannies, believing that her place was at Bobby's side. "I wrote to Ethel and Teddy to tell them of the book. Then I left it at that. I didn't want to pull the Kennedys into the middle of it all. I was never a Kennedy doormat. Maybe that was the problem. You see, Beth is. She is a good step-mother, very nice with the children, ensures life is smooth for Joe, that their household is efficiently organised, and is entirely supportive of him."

"I bear her no malice. I don't believe she is the one behind the annulment request. That's Joe, something he's hung up on and I cannot hypothesise as to why he continues to do so. I can tell you that the stress caused by his announcement affected my immune system to the extent where I caught pneumonia and almost died."

The Boston archdiocese has granted Joe his annulment, but it is not over. The Pope has the final say on contested annulments and the case is now in a form of ecclesiastical limbo as it makes its way through the Vatican. How long will it take before the final decision? "Years," she says calmly.

Shattered Faith by Sheila Rauch Kennedy, Poulbeg £7.99

Arm-twister to the stars

Joe Joseph talks to Jane Tewson, the co-founder of Comic Relief, who has moved on to new challenges

JANE TEWSON is the sort of charity worker who wins over the most unlikely people to her causes. It's not that the rest of us completely ignore all the homeless people we pass as we scuttle home at night: it's just that Jane Tewson's idea of charity seems to lack all sense of proportion.

First — with *Four Weddings* scriptwriter Richard Curtis — she founded Comic Relief, a charity which is not just successful, but so hip that fundraisers like Billy Connolly, French and Saunders and Lenny Henry actually swear as they raise millions, which Harry Secombe and Katie Boyle never did.

Then, just as Comic Relief is booming, she packs her bags and sets up a teeny new charity, *Pilotlight*. It has been going barely six months, but already everyone from Richard Branson to Cameron Mackintosh is keen to help.

It's not a life that leaves much free time, especially as she also dashes home to Buckinghamshire most evenings, reaching her converted barn just in time to tuck Charlie, 4, and Sam, 2, into bed. It certainly leaves her little time to sit around in her counting house, counting out her money: which — considering that her current salary just about pays for childcare, and that her husband Charles, an Australian social anthropologist, also doesn't feature in *Forbes*' annual list of billionaires — may be just as well.

Tewson may be the most creative person working in British charity today, but she is rarely in the limelight. Yet without her, the profile of the average donor would still be an ABC female over 60.

The reason she manages to pull off all her miracles is not very mysterious: behind her diffident, self-effacing exterior, Tewson is madly cunning. She can dream up clever new ways of raising cash and, more crucially, distributing it. That is why TV chiefs, politicians, City tycoons, impresarios, film stars and journalists emerge from a chat with her to find that they have agreed to help her, for free, to fulfil her latest passionate goal.

An example? In May, when *Pilotlight* was still finding its feet, she wanted to highlight the plight of the Masai who were being kicked off their land in Kenya and Tanzania. So she asked Alan Yentob — who had just visited Africa

with her — if he would co-host a drinks party.

"Over 120 people turned up — film producers, entertainers, journalists, people from PR and advertising, friends. We listened to three Masai talking about the problems of landlessness. There are now six documentary ideas on the table... we've had introductions to film-makers and to *National Geographic*, and it has led to political lobbying. The rewards may be immediate, they may not appear for two or three years. The joy is that we're trying to allow the Masai, the homeless, whoever, to speak for themselves."

This lateral approach has become her trademark. As Comic Relief she put homelessness on the map by taking newspaper editors, the Princess of Wales and similar bigwigs to night shelters to meet young people so they could learn that "they weren't society's run-aways, but society's throwaways".

Because of her reputation for creative thinking, it wouldn't be surprising if Tewson is tapped for whizzy ideas about how to dispense the ballooning Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, which she calls "an exciting burden. The most important thing is that they're clear about what they want to do and who they want to benefit."

"Money is just one way of responding to need. The trick is to show people there's more than that: if you really thought about all the causes Diana supported — they were usually unfashionable, and not working with huge budgets... Individuals can make a difference."

"TAKE Steven Spielberg, who was at Princess Diana's funeral. My message to him would be to introduce one of the themes that was close to Diana's heart in one of your films in an honest way. That would bring about change."

Her own kids are skipping around her garden as we speak, on the one day a week that she spends at home. "I juggle my life with difficulty," says Tewson. "I love my kids, and I love my work. I'd probably be a hopeless full-time mum. But I do have to work. Charles earns very little, too, so we need both our salaries to live. And I'm passionate about what I do. I have so much fun. Over the past 15 years I feel I've had the best job in the world."

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The loneliness of the double agent

Donald Maclean's betrayal of his country to the former Soviet Union ended his brother's career. But Alan Maclean refuses to condemn him. Interview by Jason Cowley

Ever since Alan Maclean was recalled as a young man from his diplomatic post in New York, walking, as he puts it, into a "world-class scandal", he has lived under the shadow of treachery. Arriving at London Airport on a cold morning in 1951, he was hurried into a Daimler by anonymous bureaucrats and told that his brother, Donald Maclean, was suspected of being a Soviet spy and had disappeared with Guy Burgess. The pair later reappeared in Moscow, having escaped on a cross-Channel steamer from Southampton to St Malo, the beginning of their long journey into ignominy.

The event was the defining moment of Alan Maclean's life. "I knew as soon as I was called home," he says, "that any hope I had of a diplomatic career was over and that I would have to look for something else to do."

Being bright and well-connected, he quickly found work in publishing, surprisingly un-

his time at Gresham's School in Norfolk, where he read Marx and Hegel. "I think his headmaster, though pleased that Donald was bright and responsible enough to take his own political line, thought he would grow out of it."

He never did, of course. At Cambridge, where he gained a starred first, and all through his years at the Foreign Office and at the British Embassy in Washington, Donald spun a web of elaborate deceit. As a diplomat, he was meticulous and conscientious, a rigid stickler for the Official Secrets Act. But he was also part of an intricate spy network, with branches in the United States, Canada and Britain, as well as being prone to night rages and drunkenness.

Reflecting on his brother's betrayal, Maclean says: "I can't help but look back at what he did with anything but detachment. I was absolutely devoted to him. He was terribly good to me when I was a child, especially when I was as miserable as a schoolboy at Stowe. I remember, in particular, Donald saying to me that if things ever got too bad at school, I should let him know and he would come and get me out."

That expression of reassurance, he says, offered an "escape route" from a school, the dormitories of which were patrolled by a "bullying, alcoholic" housemaster.

Maclean's childhood, blighted by the death of his father when he was seven, divides into the "happy years" of his Cornish idyll, and those spent in Kensington, where his mother opened a knitwear shop, and at Stowe. His London years were set against the political turmoil of the Civil War in Spain and the gathering clouds of another war — the years when many young Oxbridge intellectuals were drawn to the messianic socialism of Marx and Lenin. Maclean says: "In this respect, Donald was shaped by the attitudes and events of his time. He became more committed after Spain."

Of the Cambridge spies, Maclean agrees that Kim Philby and the debauched Guy Burgess, driven by a reckless fear of boredom, derived pleasure from a life of treachery. He is less sure, however, about his brother. "Being a spy isn't something my brother would have entered into lightly. It is a terrible way to live, just awful," Maclean clearly understands that there is no one lonelier than the double agent. Addicted to secrecy and loyal only to himself, he lives in a condition of perpetual watchfulness.

After Donald defected to Moscow, Maclean feared that he would never hear from him again. Then, in 1956, five years after his disappearance and following Khrushchev's famous denunciation of Stalin at the 20th Party Congress, he received a telegram. "It was brief. He said that he was well, and hoped that the family was well, too. He asked for the address of my mother, who had never lost faith in him. He expressed no regret, and had faith that the Soviet Union would get better."

Harold Macmillan, under whom Alan worked briefly at the publishers Macmillan,



"I can't help but look back at what he did with anything but detachment. I was devoted to him. Being a spy isn't something my brother would have entered into lightly. It's a terrible way to live"

In the following extract from his book, Alan Maclean, who was part of the British delegation to the United Nations at the time of his brother's defection to Moscow, reveals how he heard the news of Donald's betrayal and the effect it had on him and the family of Guy Burgess, who defected at the same time

THE Minister rang up from the office. I was to come back at once. "Why?" "Can't tell you on the telephone. Just come." The telegram to New York, decoded by the Minister, had only said, "Donald Maclean disappeared. Fear another breakdown. Send Alan back immediately." We agreed, the Minister and I, that whatever it was didn't look too good. I managed to catch the next plane and eight or nine hours later we landed at Preswick in Scotland to clear Customs and Immigration. The sight of my passport sent the officials into an excited huddle and I watched their important, responsible expressions as they conferred. "Do you know a Mr Donald Duart Maclean?"

"Yes, of course I do. He's my brother. That's why I'm here, I think."

They left me and I could hear a drone of conversation through the partition wall. Quite soon they thanked me, called me "Sir" in fairly heavily inverted commas and we continued our

famously described the patriotic Donald as a "class traitor". Discussing the Cambridge spies in the Commons, Macmillan said: "Our Foreign Office regards this case as a personal wound, as when something of the kind strikes at a family, or a ship, or a regiment."

Maclean loyally defends his brother. "If Macmillan was implying that Donald had an obligation to his class rather than to what he thought to be politically and humanely fair, then he was wrong. The word traitor also implies that my brother felt, in some way,

'The thing is, Donald seems to have wandered off...'

journey on the last short leg to London.

Henry Davidson, the assistant in the personnel department, was at the bottom of the steps as I emerged from the plane. We got into an enormous black Daimler waiting near by and purred off. I said diffidently: "I don't want to be nosy, but what am I doing here?"

"Oh, heavens. Well, yes. Sorry. The thing is that Donald seems to have wandered off. God knows where and we haven't a clue where he is. Very worrying for your mother and we thought it would be nice for her to have you with her..." I looked at Henry's gentle face and thought: "They're not arresting me, they're just going to kill me."

"And what now, Henry?"

"Ah, yes. Well. Perhaps if you could spare half an hour, you would have a word with one of our chaps in the office before going home? Better not tell anyone you're here," he said later. "We don't want the press on to this."

Two days later the Case of the Missing Diplomats was premiered on the columns of the *Daily Express* and played to packed houses everywhere for many years. Most reporters working on the London end of the story telephoned all the families and close friends once or twice every day and for some weeks we were at times besieged. It was a bewildering time, particularly for Donald and Melinda's small sons.

It never seemed appropriate or sensible to make contact with Guy's family. What on earth could we have found to say to each other? But one morning it was arranged that Guy's stepfather and I would go together to Waterloo station to pick out our respective family treasures (the belongings Guy and Donald had left on the cross-Channel ferry).

The Colonel and I stood facing each other across a large table on which were two canvas bags with leather grips and various piles of

sad-looking objects and clothes. Speed and decisiveness were the thing and we chose entirely at random without a moment's hesitation when our turns came. We got through in what must have been record time until we were left with only two items: the first was a pair of really dirty, torn, black pyjamas and the other a revolting pair of socks which were quite stiff with dried sweat and had holes in heels and toes.

I was sure that they were both Guy's and said so. The Colonel was equally sure that they were both "Your chaps".

I had my one moment of inspiration. "Donald never wore pyjamas," I said. "A sin against nature." The Colonel paused a moment, and accepted defeat like the gentleman he was. "Right," he said, hooking the pyjamas into his bag with the handle of his umbrella. "But you're having those bloody socks."

On the way out I saw a large wire-meshed receptacle. "Colonel," I said, "look!" "Good man," he said and both pyjamas and socks went to their long home. As we shook hands he nearly smiled, but thought better of it. "I hope you've enjoyed your morning, Jim." He sighed. "I've had a lovely time."

● No, I Tell a Lie, It Was the Tuesday by Alan Maclean. Published by Kyle Cathie, £16.99

nothing, for instance, about his wife of 31 years, or their two sons, the younger of whom, Dan, died at the age of ten; nothing about his inner life or his convictions.

Repeatedly, he says that he has "no political beliefs", as if he were deliberately positioning himself against the hard ideology of his brother. He is curiously interesting, though, on the treatment he received for alcoholism in the early 1960s.

There is something inscrutable about Maclean that is hard

to account for. Intelligent, charming but shrewdly circumspect, he leaves much unsaid. His voice drops as he talks about his family, but is animated when discussing his public years in publishing. Ask him, for instance, about his elder son, Ben, 29, and he becomes vague. "I'm not quite sure what he does: I think he paints people's houses and does a bit of research."

Of his wife, Robin, whom he met at Macmillan, he is equally cryptic. "She used to work as my secretary. We had a whirlwind seven-year romance and then got married."

When the photographer arrives, Alan says: "Oh, look. Here comes the hangman."

He begins to chuckle. "Look, I feel it's much better to write and talk about those who are dead. You can't hurt their feelings." If so, he surely ought to have written about his late son in what is after all an autobiography? But no. "I felt I had nothing interesting to say about him," he says, sighing. "Anything I said would have been as clichéd as a 1930s B movie."

You leave thinking that he would have made a perfect spy.

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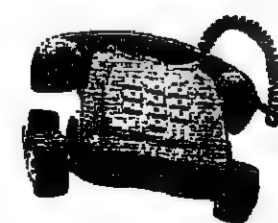
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The wraps are off Number One Poultry — and Marcus Binney, a longstanding opponent of the scheme, is horrified

Was this worth three decades of argument?

Lord Palumbo's Number One Poultry exists for one reason: Tory ministers were much taken by the argument that "it might be a masterpiece". It is not. As it finally emerges from behind the hoardings on perhaps the most prominent building site in the City of London it can be seen for what it is: awkward, galumphing and frankly bizarre. It is actually obese, bulging embarrassingly out of its corsets in every direction.

The 30-year story of Number One Poultry is well known. After patiently assembling the wedge-shaped site along Queen Victoria Street, Palumbo went to Mies van der Rohe. The Mies design for a tower and piazza was rejected after a public inquiry, so Palumbo turned to the late Sir James Stirling. His design was approved by Nicholas Ridley almost ten years ago, but still had to run the gauntlet of a lengthy High Court challenge and a further hard-fought inquiry over road closures. After this extraordinary saga, Stirling's building is likely to come as a disappointment even to many of its supporters.

What should be its prime feature — the dramatically acute corner facing on to Bank junction, replacing the familiar Gothic turret of Mappin and Webb — is set to rank as one of modern architecture's all-time anticlimaxes. Is it a Martello tower? A submarine turret? What are those funny projections at the top, looking like the high diving boards of a 1930s lido?

We shall never know. Mark Girouard, who is writing Stirling's biography, says: "Stirling never explained his buildings." One theory put forward is that they are Big Jim's version of an Antique Rostral column, the kind which Roman admirals built to celebrate their victories, with piles of ships jutting out of the side.

The cylinder of the tower is set off by a stiff collar of smooth stone, with a coved cornice in the manner of Egyptian temples. The sheer stone walls look ineffective when seen in diminishing perspective along Queen Victoria Street. The whole

building is like nothing so much as a giant Transformer toy, intended to suggest some outsize, vaguely threatening monster.

The long matching flanks should bring life through what the 18th-century architect Robert Adam called Movement: the rise and the fall, the advance and the recess. Stirling creates a mighty rhythm of giant drums alternating with gently pointed bastions of glass. But movement by itself does not create visual appeal. After all, Basil Spence's dreadful Knightsbridge Barracks

'The whole building looks like a giant Transformer toy'

are full of overhangs and recesses. There also needs to be a lightness of touch and a spirit of inventiveness that intrigues.

As in many of his German buildings of the Eighties, Stirling makes emphatic use of colour, though in the centre of London he is more subdued than in Berlin or Stuttgart, facing the exterior in bands of pink and golden stone. The stone veneer is beautifully cut. But on a bright sunny day it is the newly cleaned Portland stone buildings near by that sparkle, while on a grey day Stirling's polychrome is too subdued to sing.

Compared with the richness of ornament on the previous Victorian building on the site, which I and many others fought hard to preserve, Number One Poultry is severely lacking in satisfying, well-crafted detail. The treatment of the windows is dull and the columns of the ground-floor arcades look like stacks of Lego bricks.

Stirling's building invites judgment now, because it stands on a

prime site and is at last revealed for all to see. But its great idea is undoubtedly the intricacy of its plan. In the Eighties Stirling was fascinated by complex geometry: a whole succession of commissions and competition projects make clever play of interlocking cylinders and triangles. Though the interiors will not be on show until the building is finished towards November, the circular court that forms the centrepiece is already visible from the walkway created through the building from Queen Victoria Street to Poultry. Here Stirling uses a bold palette of sea-blue tiles offset by deep window cheeks in vibrant pale blue and yellow, as well as a rather nasty shade of lipstick pink.

Stirling devoted a lot of ingenuity to the way that people will move through the building. There is a Scala Regia, a long straight flight rising from the corner entrance and descending through a sunken shopping arcade to the Underground, which is as neat as the workings of a clock. Indeed, Stirling's exquisitely drawn floor plans are likely to remain the most beautiful part of the building — though Sir Terence Conran's rooftop restaurant will undoubtedly provoke great interest.

Yet many people are likely to go along with the story of the wag who said: "The architect got his briefs in a muddle." Palumbo has got an art gallery instead of the expected office block, and somewhere there must be a museum director wondering what to make of an office block.

In the whole 30-year saga of the Mappin and Webb site, the strangest thing is why Mies van der Rohe, when originally offered the triangular site assembled by Palumbo, decided to square it off and make a piazza with a matchbox tower on one side. Mies's most visionary scheme, which has always caught the imagination of everyone who sees it, was a drawing for a soaring, transparent prism-shaped skyscraper on a tight triangular site. He never got the Friedrichstrasse in Berlin, but in London Palumbo gave him the site of his dreams. Had he seized it we might be looking at a very different building today.



Number One Poultry: "Is it a submarine turret? And what are those funny projections at the top?"

Eclectic acoustic

COREY HARRIS, Keb' Mo', Eric Bibb: three reasons to feel confident about the immediate future of country blues. When so many electric blues albums offer a present for one-dimensional urban assemblage to strut their stuff, Bibb and his fellow singer-guitarists furnish a reflective and soulful alternative by refusing to confine themselves to any single genre. In Bibb's repertoire, spirituals, folk songs and well-crafted pop tunes are all mixed together with 12-bar blues.

Bibb has lived in Sweden for some years now. I don't suppose Robert Johnson ever thought of writing a number

BLUES

Eric Bibb

Queen Elizabeth Hall

called *Sweet Home Stockholm*, but if purists doubt that the blues can survive in any climate, they are advised to get hold of Bibb's recent release, *Good Stuff*, an atmospheric session recorded with an unfailingly sympathetic group of Swedish sidemen.

One of them, Göran Wennerbrandt, was on hand with his National steel guitar at Bibb's stripped-down South Bank debut. His unfussy slide accompaniment formed a distinct counterpoint to Bibb's more extrovert phrasing.

Bibb's new disc, *Me to You* — due out next month on the Code Blue label — gives him the opportunity to stretch out with an electric band. Like Keb' Mo', whom he resembles in both sound and appearance, he seems perfectly at ease in both amplified and acoustic settings.

But it is the latter that suits his husky, perfectly enunciated vocals best. In a faultless QEH set, Bibb toured the neglected backwaters of American music, paying tribute to folk's Woody Guthrie and Bob Gibson along the way and nodding in the direction of Blind Lemon Jefferson on a finger-picking instrumental duet with Wennerbrandt.

The original tunes had an unmistakably contemporary gloss. *Saucer 'n' Cup* and *Shingle by Shingle* are the work of a melodic songwriter who does not equate blues with melancholia.

CLIVE DAVIS

CLASSICAL CHOICE: VERDI'S 'OPERA OF IDEAS'

A connoisseur's guide to the best available recordings on compact disc, presented in conjunction with the BBC Radio 3 series

VERDI'S *LA FORZA DEL DESTINO*
Reviewed by
Roger Parker

First performed in St Petersburg in 1861, and given in a revised version at La Scala, Milan in 1869, *La forza del destino* is what Verdi would call "an opera of ideas": like an histori-

cal novel put on stage, with all sorts of extravagant gestures that lead nowhere.

Eleven versions are currently available, spanning every decade from the 1940s to the 1990s. Taking a tour through them is like reviewing the history of Italian singing in the second half of our century; there are so many fine individ-

ual moments. But the sheer range of the opera makes it difficult to find a version that has everything right.

The earliest complete recording, conducted by Gino Marinuzzi, with Caniglia, Masini and Tagliabue in the leading roles (Grammofono A57856/7/8), was made in 1940, and of course cannot compete with recent versions in terms of sound quality. But it is still a remarkably vivid account, with superb clarity of diction from the principals.

Another important early set was conducted by Tullio Serafin in 1954 (EMI CDS 5 56323-2). It features the Leonora of Maria Callas, and although shortcomings in the rest of the cast prevent it becoming a major contender, the young Callas is magnificent, entering into the character in a way no other soprano quite manages.

Several subsequent sets have elements to be recommended but are compromised by weak links: Milanov under Previtali is powerful, but Di-



Stefano's Alvaro does not have the variation for such a demanding role. Domingo and Milnes under Levine are equally impressive, but are let down by a unidimensional Leonora from Leontyne Price. Sinopoli's 1985 version has eccentric tempi and two of the principals (Carreras and Plowright) in clear vocal difficulties. Gergiev's recent account of the original version, performed with almost exclusively Russian forces, is at times bizarrely idiosyncratic and unidiomatic.

In the end, the best recording is Riccardo Muti's 1985 set with Mirella Freni and Plácido Domingo (EMI CDS 7 47485-8, £46.99). Muti's conducting is extraordinarily sensitive to orchestral nuance; Freni, although a somewhat light-voiced Leonora, shows commendable technical control; and Domingo's emotional range is such that he really has only himself as a rival.

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● Next Saturday on Radio 3: Mozart's Piano Sonata in A, K331.

Chic and other four-letter words

COMEDY: Glammed-up but earthy as ever, Donna McPhail is on tour

In theory, the evolution of the *Loaded* lad has produced a complementary crop of tough lasses. They play football, they drink lager, they boast, posture, put a lot and wear expensive trackuits. What they have signally failed to do is produce a single really impressive female comedian, which suggests that, far from being a big leap forward for feminism, their big talk is all bluster. All the more reason, therefore, to catch one of the few really good female stand-ups not yet betrothed exclusively to television.

Sporting suits as sharp as her tongue — she may still wear Doc Martens, but they are well hidden behind Nicole Farhi trousers — and admitting to a weakness for expensive moisturiser, Donna McPhail is back on the road again, for a 30-date national tour.

This is not McPhail as seen on TV. *The Sunday Show* — the midday BBC2 show with which most people will associate her — was largely mediocre, but McPhail should be heartily congratulated: it is a miracle that she managed to say anything suitable for pre-watershed transmission. Let's face it — live and direct, the woman swears like a trucker on Buckfast.

Her best jokes are unrepeatable, not simply on grounds of taste, but also delivery. For someone who claims that "lazy is a hobby, idle is a career move; I could be idle for Britain but I can't be bothered", McPhail puts in a suspiciously energetic performance. It is only when she stops moving long enough to take a drink that the buzz she creates becomes noticeable by its absence. Perhaps in future she could attach a flexible plastic straw to her microphone cable so that she would never need to stop.

The well-nurtured boozie slob persona upon which much of the act turns — "I'm not grown up enough to buy a house: I'd just get pissed up and leave it somewhere" — is slightly undermined by her current stylish incarnation. At the grand old age of 30 McPhail is definitely a grown-up by comedy standards. But, maybe because her contemporaries are undergoing the rites of conformist adulthood while

she remains "always the bridesmaid, never the groom", a large part of her is still playing the child.

The split personality makes for a wonderfully balanced show: stylish one-liners burble up against teenage belly laughs and, perhaps most importantly, the audience is allowed occasionally to think for itself. McPhail's great talent is in making a show that is so carefully judged appear so aggressively fresh.

HETTIE JUDAH

● For more details about Donna McPhail's tour, ring 0171-287 5010

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Leading London a merry dance

The Royal Ballet is moving into a picture palace under the Hammersmith flyover.

Artistic director Anthony Dowell tells Debra Craine about the challenges

Tomorrow night the dancers of the Royal Ballet are moving house. It may be only ten steps down the Piccadilly Line, but it's a world away from Covent Garden. For their new home, at least for the next three and a half weeks, is a former Art Deco picture palace that found fame in the Sixties as one of Britain's premier rock venues.

At first glance, the Labatt's Apollo would not appear to be the most inspiring of theatres. Tucked away on a busy corner of the Hammersmith roundabout, and covering under the massive Hammersmith flyover, it hears the lorries thundering by day and night. But step inside and you will be surprised to find that the venue which once hosted David Bowie and the Beatles has had a change of image. Thanks to a £1.5 million refit, the Labatt's Apollo has been turned up, fit for a ballerina and, so the Royal Ballet hopes, for audiences more accustomed to the faded opulence of the Royal Opera House.

Getting balletgoers through the door is what the next two years are all about. With Covent Garden closed for redevelopment, its resident opera and ballet companies are on the road, performing at venues across London between now and the end of 1999. Christmas will find the Royal Ballet at the Festival Hall — a notoriously unsuitable venue for dance — while early summer will see the company installed at the Barbican. You could bemoan the bad planning which has left the Royal Ballet without a full-time home theatre during closure. Or you could decide that life as an itinerant dance company has its advantages. Which is the course Anthony Dowell prefers to take.

"It has always been refreshing

for us to tour and get out into different places," says the Royal Ballet's artistic director. "We once played in a tent in Battersea Park and found we attracted an audience who would never have come to see us in the Opera House. So perhaps from thinking what a pity it was that we were not resident in one theatre, I looked in a positive way at suddenly having different venues, saying this will have the same effect as when we were in the tent. People might come in to see the Royal Ballet who normally see the Opera House as daunting."

What is daunting for Dowell is the sheer size of the Labatt's Apollo. With 3,485 seats — its owners claim it is the largest theatre in Britain — it is also a lot bigger than Covent Garden, and filling it has proved to be unexpectedly difficult. The Royal Ballet may be keen to get out and show its face, but ticket sales have been slower than anticipated. This despite the fact that ticket prices are considerably lower than at Covent Garden — 45,000 tickets selling at £30 and under. Dowell is damned for choosing the safest of repertoires — with *Romeo and Juliet*, *Giselle* and *The Sleeping Beauty*, it couldn't be safer — but he will also be damned if he doesn't pull in the punters.

"We are a classical ballet company and we have still got to do the classics. If we are heading for a new audience we need to get people in. It would be crazy to be more adventurous this first year. These are the ballets that someone new to ballet is least afraid of. We have to give them what they want to see."

These days bashing the Royal Ballet, and Dowell in particular, is a favourite pastime in ballet circles. But then the company has given its critics plenty of ammunition over



Anthony Dowell directing two of his Royal Ballet dancers, Belinda Hallett and Michael Nunn. "Yes, it has been an anxious time. Rumours were rife about our future"

the plans for closure. One announcement after another revealed a management in crisis at the Royal Opera House, and hardly instilled confidence in the taxpayer whose hard-earned pounds help to pay for Covent Garden's ballet and opera companies. But Dowell is prepared to take some of the criticism on board, even if it sometimes hurts. "I think it has been rather unfair, because no one here set out to put a

spanner in the works. It has been particularly brutal. I don't know whether there is a gang out to do us all in. There is a strange thing in British culture, to knock the Establishment. But maybe it's healthy, that we can take it and look at it and think maybe it is justified.

"Yes, it has been an anxious time. Rumours were rife about our future. But you know the easiest thing financially would have been

to shut the whole kit and caboodle down during closure. The opera has been scaled down; they have lost some of the chorus. And it was possible that the Royal Ballet would be cut back, too. But we have not been cut back, because it was paramount to keep the company together as a living organism. If we had lost dancers the company would have atrophied and young dancers would have been locked

out of roles. Everything would have remained very static."

Instead, with a full company at his disposal, Dowell will be able to give greater opportunities to some of the younger dancers. And although there is no big new production in the offing, there will be new small-scale works later in the season at the Barbican. Meanwhile, Dowell is hoping that seasons like the one at the Labatt's

Apollo will open people's eyes to what ballet is all about. "People must think we live in a world that is terribly reverential and spiritual. But we are entertainment; that's what the ballet is all about. It just happens to be an art form that has managed to lift a lot of people's hearts and souls."

● *Romeo and Juliet* opens tomorrow night at the Labatt's Apollo, Hammersmith (0171 416 6062)

OPERA: Opera Northern Ireland leaps into autumn with an ambitious gamble; plus the return of Jonathan Miller's marvellous Gilbert and Sullivan

Opera Northern Ireland's autumn season is a brave one. No company, least of all a part-time set-up like ONI, approaches *Aida* or *Idomeneo* lightly, but thanks to bold thinking by the artistic director, Stephen Barlow, the gamble of giving both operas together pays off. It pays up, too, since lottery money is available for new work. *Idomeneo*, never before performed in Ireland, somehow becomes a "new" 216-year-old masterpiece.

There was an undeniable freshness in Saturday's presentation of Mozart's greatest opera, beginning with Barlow's fine-grained account of the score. But at times his conducting of the Ulster Orchestra was too relaxed: passion is never far below the surface in this music, and though the singers all got good support, they also needed someone to fire them up.

Dramatic double vision

Maybe the producer should share the blame, because Virginia Kerr, singing on her usual good form, made an introverted Elettra who had never heard of vengeance. Louise Walsh stole the show with her lovely, well-focused *Idia*, and the war-torn Emma Selway, lacking only a little verve, almost matched her as *Idamante*. Alas, Mark Le Brocq appeared unequal to the demands of the title role.

Harry Silverstein and Linda Buchanan, the Chicago-based production team, served up a staging that lost dramatic momentum along the way. Buchanan's permanent set, an abstract Ancient Greece in ramps, stairs and towers, worked well, better than her Zorba the Assyrian costumes. But Silverstein's di-

rection was static and stilled, and he failed to get the precise-sounding Choir of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, guests in this production, to loosen up like a real opera chorus.

With its ornamental elephants and other exotica, Belfast's Grand Opera House might be just the place for a traditional production of *Aida*. But perhaps Jamie Hayes did not know about them when he planned his staging, because he shifted the action rather feebly from the original Ethiopian-Egyptian hostilities to the Franco-Prus-

sian war. 1870 is indeed the time of the opera's composition, but there the "insights" stopped.

In Nick Barnes's somewhat homespun designs, compelling drama in which Verdi clearly takes the side of the political underdog, became costume drama in which there was no obvious underdog. The slave *Aida* — well, perhaps servant — wore the most sumptuous frock of all. The Triumphal Scene was turned into a champagne party, though at least the ballet music allowed for an Egyptian-style entertainment. The trouble with such a specific updating is that the text, especially in *Aida*, undermines the concept at every turn.

Given that every major opera house struggles to cast

Aida, ONI did very well. In the American soprano Jean Glennon it found an authentic *Aida* voice, perhaps a little steele, but very affecting in her big moments. Though he started stiffly as Radames, the Georgian tenor Badri Maisouradze settled down to give a moving portrayal of some subtlety, and with Jonathan Miller giving one of his vivid performances as Amonasso, the great Nile Scene was certainly dramatic.

Hyacinth Nicholls (Amneris) and John Hall, a King of Egypt who looked more like a small-town mayor than Bismarck, were both adequate, and Richard Robson (Ramses) and Mary Nelson (High Priestess) were strong in their small roles.

Martin André conducted a powerful, well-paced performance while still savouring the score's lyricism.

JOHN ALLISON

Yum yum, Miller's back

Jonathan Miller was lurking in the stalls for the eighth revival of his 1920s Grand Hotel *Mikado*. He should have been well pleased by what he saw and heard. Once, Michael Rosewall's *Mikado* was through the overture was through, Miller's piece of highly polished, dazzlingly decorated stage machinery whirled away. Under the nimble guidance of deputy director David Ritch it positively purred.

On stage there were a number of equally experienced G & S hands who have lived with *The Mikado* for several years. Nanki-Poo remains one of Bonaventura Bottone's best parts, a character out of E.F. Benson with his slicked-back hair and carefully clipped vowels. Richard Angus's bass may be short on

focus, but his Emperor of Japan dispensing wisdom as law is still a visual joy. Miller aimed for caricatures who could have stepped from a *Punch* cartoon. In this he is abetted by Arwel How Morgan's uncanny Welsh voice as a Fish-Tush and Ian Caddy's Poot-Bah, permanent sneer on the lips and a dead ring for Neville Chamberlain seeking appeasement.

Then there is Richard Suart's Ko-Ko. He was only understudy to Eric Idle when the production opened in 1986, but he has made the Lord High Executioner his own. No one does a better crumple before the arms of Katisha (the

formidable Anne Collins) or a more convincing grovel in front of the really important. His list of those who will not be missed could do with more brushing up in terms of rhyme and topicality. The Teletubbies make a welcome debut, but other targets are blurred. One or two in the train of "little ladies" fresh from the classroom are not going to be cast as Lolita. But the three maids from school all have their charms, especially Janis Kelly's sweetly sung Yum-Yum and Nerys Jones's pert Piti-Sing, and the all-sneaking chambermaids and all-camping bellhops are vital cogs in the machinery.

JOHN HIGGINS

● Richard Core's visual arts column will appear tomorrow

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Pipe down, Paddy: you need Labour

The Lib Dem leader must lead his party, says Peter Mandelson

Paddy Ashdown faces a difficult task in Eastbourne this week. He is trying to convince his party that closer co-operation with the Labour Government offers the best way forward. After years without power under a Tory Government to which he was fundamentally and ideologically opposed, he and his parliamentary colleagues do not much fancy spending years without power under a Government with whom they broadly agree.

He has started a process of co-operation with the Government which last week saw him and senior colleagues in Downing Street as part of a Special Cabinet Committee which is considering constitutional reform. Many in his party are, however, sceptical about his moves towards Labour and need to be convinced that this does not imply acquiescence to everything the Government does.

Mr Ashdown's tactic is to go out of his way to be seen attacking Labour this week. He wears his assaults on the Government as a badge of honour. Yesterday he accused the Government of "deliberate betrayal". His hope is that such attacks will make his conference less way of his personal wish to move closer to the Government.

I have two objections to this tactic, which he describes enigmatically as "constructive opposition". First, in his rush to show his opposition to the Government, he uses criticisms which are not soundly based. Take, for example, the attack yesterday that Labour had "frankly broken its promises on health and education". This is absolute nonsense.

We have already legislated for our manifesto commitments to reduce class sizes to 30 or fewer for all five, six and seven-year-olds. We have already started to save money on NHS red tape to allow us to treat 100,000 more patients. Indeed, we have gone further than our manifesto by allocating an extra £2.3 billion to education and an extra £1.2 billion to health in the Budget. To argue that this amounts to broken promises is certainly not constructive because it is simply not credible.

These attacks on Labour's record of public spending are based on the Liberal Democrats' somewhat disingenuous use of figures. They argue for more money on education and health, to be funded by an extra penny on income tax. Yet their manifesto committed them to spending pledges, from increasing housing benefits to phasing out the contributory principle for state pensions, to paying for an extra 3,000 police. These commitments equated to at least 5p on the basic rate. Are these commitments still in place? The Liberal Democrats opposed the one-off windfall levy on the privatised utilities, which raised £5.2 billion. Do they therefore oppose the new deal for the unemployed and the huge school improvement programme which the levy will fund?

They oppose the recommendations of the Dearing Committee on Higher Education, yet they ignore the fact that to return to the support system

that existed in the 1970s for the number of students we expect to have in 20 years' time would cost 3p on the basic rate. Thus their constant cries for more money are not matched by a responsibility to show where such resources will come from.

My second objection is that Mr Ashdown's criticisms demonstrate a naivety about the responsibilities of government at a time when he is seeking such responsibilities for himself, and thus they undermine his wider strategy. The growing relationship with Labour thus places a special responsibility on him to ensure that his party's criticisms and policies are rigorous. Government is about hard choices. It is about using limited resources in the best possible way. And it is about keeping promises — such as Labour's promise to keep within the tight public spending totals for the first two years of government.

Nor should Mr Ashdown think that a more mature view of the constraints under which the Government is operating, given the huge level of borrowing bequeathed by the last Government, will necessarily turn his party against him. Many of his faithful are councillors controlling huge budgets. They are better aware than most that money does not grow on trees and that electorates are quick to punish administrations which are profligate or break their promises.

Certainly the Liberal Democrats' own national political interests are not served by making endless demands on the public purse. As Labour learnt over many years in Opposition, the public does not trust parties with a knee-jerk instinct to solve every problem with more public money. They are all suspicious of parties which promise the earth, while being muddled about how it will be paid for.

It was precisely because Labour showed a hard-headed recognition of the realities of the public spending situation at the last election that we were able to secure the trust of so many. Indeed, it was because Labour was seen as economically responsible that many former Tory voters were prepared to vote Liberal Democrat in seats where they represented the best hope of unseating the discredited Tories. Having ridden on the back of Labour prudence, the Liberal Democrats should not now be so eager to attack it.

No doubt Mr Ashdown's attacks will continue next week — he feels that they are necessary in order to secure his more fundamental objective. But it is a dangerous game. If he is serious about working with Labour he should learn two important lessons. First, parties which slip into opposition, making invalid criticisms and promising painless pragmatism, are not seen by the public as credible, and are not trusted with government. Second, the public rewards leaders who have the courage to take on some in their own party and lead them to new ground.

The author is MP for Harlepool and Minister without Portfolio.



"IT'S TIME TO RID OURSELVES OF THIS PETTY TRIBALISM IN POLITICS..."

Give children a chance

If adults share the blame for juvenile crime, Parenting Orders are worth a try

There is a mournful cry, often heard rising from gatherings of parents whose children have stopped being winsome and developed big feet, growing voices, busts and collections of Prodigy albums. The cry goes: "They never told us about this in ante-natal class!" For all our affection, we permit ourselves brief surges of resentment that during the lessons about bathing and zinc ointment, nobody ever thought to warn us about the real tasks of parenthood.

They never prepared us for PTA evenings, or boiling plastic gunshields, or sitting through Jim Carrey films, or those lethal bike-racks you clip to your back windscreen. Urban parents feel that nobody warned them about "clubbing", and rural ones wonder balefully how the simple act of giving birth led to painful attempts to transport a wheelbarrow in a Metro to pony camp. The literature of parenthood deals overwhelmingly with the first few years, with bracingly simple issues like broken nights and ear infections and daycare. Perhaps it is as well for the species that nobody ever really expects 18 years of supervision and a lifetime of worry. I was fussing over a baby in a carrycot at a BBC seminar once when Bill Cotton, well retired by then, thundered: "You think it's tough now. Just you wait until he's fifty."

Now we must brace ourselves, under Jack Straw's scheme to be published this week, for new court powers if our children break the law. Under Parenting Orders we could be heavily fined, forced to keep them under curfew, or sent on corrective courses. For more affluent families this last sanction might prove to be the one with most bite. Imagine (with gleeful Schadenfreude, if you must) the dismay of a smug middle-class householder abruptly forced to forgo the golf course for three months of Saturdays to attend a social services classroom, all because his tearaway son flirted with Ecstasy. Or imagine a similar fate befalling a serially married middle-aged belle, who prefers to concentrate on her newest brood while shruggingly ignoring the fact that her dour 16-year-old from an earlier union is off the rails and on the game. Or a long-fled father who thought his duties ended with the maintenance cheque, but who is suddenly commanded by a court to roll up in person with his hated ex-wife for instruction on his emotional

responsibilities towards a troubled 12-year-old caught shoplifting in Woolies. If the new court powers underline the solemn commitment of parenthood, if they result in fewer utterances of that terrible sentence "They're grown up at twelve these days, what can you do?", then the exercise may be worth it.

There is certainly a case, in common justice and humanity, for moving the emphasis away from criminal children and on to the homes that produce them. A decade of populist ministerial blustering about Young Hooligans, Rat Boys, Safari Boys, Terror

Tots and the rest has done nobody any favours. It was always a manifest injustice that a 15-year-old could get shut in a horrible institution and bullied until he hanged himself, while no sanction faced the adults who helped to put him there by neglect, stupidity, drugs, drinking, criminal example, marital fecklessness or plain violent temper. Psychologists speak of victim parents and "cycles of deprivation" but you never break the cycle if you do not, at some point, insistently help one generation to accept the dignity of responsibility.

Of course a few families want to do well, mean to do well, and are under intolerable pressures which are their fault. Nobody wants to oppress them further. But to make children pay the whole price of general social breakdown — and under past Home Secretaries, we have got dangerously close to this — is bitterly unfair. Children are children: they are not born vicious, and if they become enemies of society before their brains and hearts are fully developed, we not they have failed. Nor do we serve their best interests by cutting short their childhood and sycophantically calling them "young people" from an absurdly early age (or throwing out *doli incapax*, the legal principle that they are incapable of discerning right from wrong). Just because big children can catch buses and do physics, we are not entitled to dust off our hands and leave them to their own

devices while we turn our backs and pretend we are young and carefree again. Nobody these days wants to be a steady old father-figure or earth-mother, but hell, somebody has to.

So will it work, this legal targeting of parents? Probably not at the very bottom of the heap. Courts can already fine, bind over, or jail uncooperative parents but they rarely do because it doesn't work. It just makes the rest of the family poorer and more miserable, or provokes dangerous violence against the delinquent one. My own hunch is that the new Parenting Orders will have the best

deterrent effect among the broad middle classes — those who are in work and want to think well of themselves. That is not to be sneezed at: it means most of us.

But the hard core of criminalised children are likely to have more stacked against them than incompetent parents. Crime is also fed by poverty, lack of hope (especially hope of work), an arid environment, struggling schools, and an utter lack of stimulating alternatives to crime. One does not have to be a bleeding-heart liberal to grasp that if you are ten years old and the only person who values your brains and skills, welcomes you in a team and praises your achievements is the local crack dealer — well, you are pretty likely to sign up with him. Especially if your only parent is broke, depressed, and too scared of the lawless streets to come out looking for you of an evening.

The worst child crime will not be alleviated by threats against parents: whether it will be reduced by sending them on Mr Straw's promised training courses depends entirely on how good those courses are. Those run in the United States, and over here by groups such as Nacro (National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders) have been proven to reduce child criminality. The American study suggests that every dollar spent saves five. But note, these courses are voluntary. It will take determination to devise courses

which work on sullen groups of parent-pupils who have only turned up because it was either that or a £1,000 fine. But it is worth a try. And the voluntary courses and family support centres should be a priority for government support, too: they should not have to struggle for charitable funds. If we are trying to make parents take their duties seriously, we have to make sure that when they ask for help, it is there.

The other thing worth trying is for society — there is such a thing — communally and consistently to accept its own role as a parent of all children. It is a source of constant amazement to me that in law and regulation about children we can be at once so bossy (hair-trigger raids on suspicion of satanic abuse, mad regulations about dinner-ladies' hats, bans on Noddy books) and yet so cavalierly negligent (road layouts, underfunded schools, padlocked playgrounds). Whenever somebody does come up with a scheme that would enhance children's lives and learning, make up for overcrowded unsupportive homes, sop up potentially disruptive energies and generally make the next generation feel welcome, we ought to spring on it with enthusiasm and (yes!) public money.

Yet what does happen? If you try to start an after-school homework and activity club run by parents, you are soon lost in a thicket of bureaucratic indifference and quite likely told that "for insurance reasons" it can't possibly be done. Keeping vulnerable children occupied and stimulated, drawing them in to the culture and the kindness of the national community, is a woefully low social priority everywhere.

Last year The Prince's Trust put in a blue-chip, planned and costed proposal to the Millennium Commission for a nationwide network of after-school study support centres — purposeful, well-equipped, staffed, fun, a bit of communal paternalism at its best. They were turned down flat, and I do not notice the Government rushing to find them other money instead.

Not we'd rather have the damn Dome. Even if, owing to the lack of anything much else to do after school hours, it ends up having to be defended by razor-wire and big dogs from the generation whose new millennium it is.

Why I am a prophet of boom

Anatole Kaletsky on Britain's bright economic future

It all seems too good to be true. Britain's unemployment rate has fallen to half the German level and, by next year, will be lower than it is in the United States, according to forecasts produced last week by the International Monetary Fund. The high streets are busy, but shopkeepers are not yet so flush they forget about competitive pricing. Property values are rising, but houses remain affordable in relation to average earnings (at least outside London and the Home Counties). Interest rates have risen, but they seem to be nearing a peak — and anyone who frets about rising borrowing costs can lock into a fixed-interest mortgage for as little as 6.9 per cent over five years.

Surely this cannot last? Surely the British people are about to slip on some huge economic banana-skin? Surely what lies ahead is a balance of payments crisis, or a sterling crisis, or an inflation crisis, or a boom-bust crisis of some kind?

For professional economic forecasters, the safest answer to such questions is always "yes". The soothsayer's function has always been to warn and admonish, not to spread good cheer. If the king went out to battle and returned in triumph, he rarely blamed the oracle who wrongly warned him about the ominous alignment of the Moon and stars. If, on the other hand, the oracle had predicted victory and the army was routed... well, oracles never did predict victory, did they?

Since I am neither oracle nor professional forecaster, I can afford to be bolder. My view is that the economic future really is fairly bright. Unemployment could probably fall from the present 1.5 million, or 5.9 per cent of the workforce, to perhaps one million, or 4 per cent. Inflation is unlikely to accelerate much despite this steady decline in unemployment. Interest rates will peak at about the present 7 per cent and industry will learn to live in the long run with a pound worth three marks, or even a bit more.

These are just round numbers, plucked in a sense out of thin air. What lies behind them is not an elaborate econometric model, but simply a hunch about the social forces that drive economic events. I do not maintain that the world has entered a new golden age governed by a "new paradigm" of globalisation, competition and unprecedented technological change, as suggested by many American economists (most of them working for bullish stockbrokers). To justify optimism a much more modest claim suffices. Rather than embarking on a new golden age, the world may simply be reliving certain features of the last period of economic prosperity: the era of full employment and low inflation from 1950 to 1973.

To understand this it is necessary to untangle two separate features of this era's benign economic performance that are constantly muddled. One of these — the very rapid advance in living standards and productivity growth — is most unlikely ever to be repeated.

Between 1960 and 1973, the countries of North America, Japan and Western Europe grew on average by 4.9 per cent a year — twice as fast as the wildest optimists on Wall Street would predict for the future. In terms of economic growth, the 1960s were an unrepeatable period. Postwar reconstruction and the global diffusion of American technology and management methods were far more powerful motors for world trade and economic dynamism than the silicon chip and the development of China are ever likely to be. There is, indeed, no need to assume that globalisation or electronic technology will accelerate the long-term trend in productivity growth.

What sceptics miss is that the "golden age" had nothing to do with technological miracles or productivity advances. As every economist knows (but few say in public) the level of productivity growth, technology or globalisation. It rests on how many thousands or millions of people must be deliberately kept on the dole, by dint of restrictive monetary or fiscal policies, to prevent wages from rising too rapidly and inflation spiralling out of control.

The main reason for economic optimism today, at least in Britain, is that inflationary behaviour appears to have subsided dramatically, largely no doubt because of the insecurity about employment prospects engendered by the unstable conditions of the past 25 years. Sooner or later, the overconfidence of the late 1960s will perhaps return. Shopkeepers will revert to price-gouging, industrialists will revert to business on the golf course and workers will revert to striking for wages their employers cannot pay. But until such complacency returns, Britain should be safe from inflation and able to move gradually towards full employment. Perhaps this article is itself an example of complacency returning, but (naturally) I doubt it.

If you still sense some fear in the air when you walk down the high street, then don't worry — it is probably safe to buy that new car or new house.

Browned off

NOW THAT Wee Willie Hague has admitted he will share a room with his intended at the Tory conference, what of the romantic plans of that other late-starting Lothario, the Chancellor? For I gather that Gordon Brown is behaving in a decidedly unchivalrous manner towards Sarah Macaulay, his delightful paramour.

With Labour's conference a week off, she is still waiting to hear if she will be required to play the role of

ever-present girlfriend. Brown's advisers are split over whether to book Miss Macaulay into her own room, or whether room can be found in the Chancellor's suite.

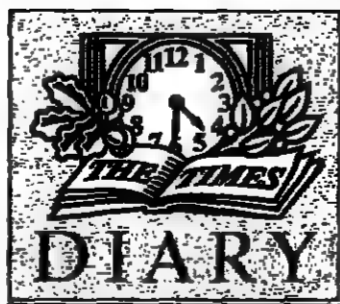
They are in trouble either way. Baroness Thatcher was unimpressed with Wee Willie's sleeping plans, commanding him "to get married before the conference". Equally, if Miss Macaulay is shuffled off to a bed and breakfast establishment in one of Brighton's more peeling quarters, it will do little to dispel Mr Brown's gloomy image as one uninterested in normal pleasures.

The couple gained attention when "spotted" enjoying dinner à deux on the eve of the Budget (by coincidence, a cameraman awaited their arrival). Mindless gossips claimed that Ms Macaulay was merely doing what she is paid to do — she runs a PR firm with close Labour links — but now the couple are rumoured to marry, she will want to be close to her brooding boyfriend.

Should Miss Macaulay bed down with Mr Brown, she would have to do so within earshot of a police protection team. Who says Mr Brown is not romantic?



Sarah: lady in waiting



● An actor who appears in the television amusement London's Burning has been made homeless after his house burnt down.

Back in wok

THE ASSAULT on the last vestiges of British colonialism shows no sign of abating in Hong Kong, where China is about to destroy Chris Patten's old kitchens in Government House. They are set to be rebuilt in the native fashion — wok-burners, bamboo bain-maries, that sort of thing. "From now on we will be serving Chinese cuisine, so it is necessary to make changes in the kitchen," says a book-burning lackey of the Hong Kong Chief Executive, Tung Chee-hwa.

Tung is using the mansion to entertain. And most entertaining he

has been. More than £1 million is being spent on the refit, while his hospitality allowance has been set at 20 per cent higher than Patten's. "The Governor used to serve his guests Western dishes," explains Tung's social secretary. "Now that the Chief Executive is a native, we plan to serve more expensive Chinese stuff." As long as it is good enough for the people...

Sick note

WHEN David Blunkett sent his hit squad into Hackney schools last



week the partners of two Labour ministers were quaking — both used to work for the Stalinist education authority there.

Janet Dobson, wife of Health Minister Frank, was the assistant director of education, while Dorian Jabri, Culture Secretary Chris Smith's special friend, was the marketing manager.

So do either accept responsibility for Hackney's patchy academic record? Both were unable to comment yesterday. Jabri was ill — perhaps because of the criticism.

Last supper

The BBC certainly knows how to reward its own. It has sent lavish hampers to staff who helped to cover the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales. Though grateful, staff were surprised. "We feel it is in rather bad taste. It was hardly much fun," says one. And this just a week after senior executives agreed that their funeral coverage had actually failed to reflect public grief.

Princely spice

LURKING among the 50,000 teeny boppers at the next Spice Girls concert will be the unlikely figures of Nelson Mandela and the Prince of Wales, who have both reserved



Royal date: the Spice Girls

front-row seats. The concert, to be held in Johannesburg Stadium, at the beginning of November, coincides with the Prince's first overseas trip since the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Proceeds will go to his charity, The Prince's Trust. Prince Charles, whose previous forays into popular music have been restricted to shy luggies to the strains of Live Aid at Wembley, can rely on Mandela to guide him through his dance steps. "The President has heard all about the Spice Girls and is very excited," says a voice in his Johannesburg office. Oh dear.

P.H.S



A WORD IN BLAIR'S EAR

The Lord Chancellor's influence is all-pervasive

Next week's Labour conference may be the last at which several Cabinet ministers take to the podium. They do not yet know who they are, but rumours persist that Tony Blair intends to carry out his first reshuffle as early as November. Over the next week or two, *The Times* will be assessing various ministers' performance in office since May 1.

Of all the members of the Cabinet, the two most secure in their positions are Gordon Brown and Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor. It is to the latter that we turn our attention today. Although he is perhaps the least-known of the Prime Minister's inner circle, he is also one of the most powerful. If Mr Brown bestrides the economic battlefields of government, Lord Irvine is the colossus of domestic policy, legislation and particularly constitutional reform. He chairs no fewer than four Cabinet committees and sub-committees, and sits on four more.

Traditionally, the Lord Chancellor has occupied the dignified as much as the efficient parts of the constitution. He presides over the House of Lords and the judiciary, as well as running the Lord Chancellor's Department. Yet this occupant must be the most political incumbent of the post in modern times.

Mr Blair, once his pupil, is now his Prime Minister. But the relationship is still extremely close. The two men talked daily before the election: Mr Blair continues to rely on his friend for advice. Peter Mandelson is the Prime Minister's tactician, Lord Irvine his strategist. The Lord Chancellor has the sharpest mind in Government, and unlike, say, John Prescott, he has no other party loyalties or ambition. He says exactly what he thinks: a trait that leaves many bruised, but is a bonus for a Prime Minister used to sycophancy. Margaret Thatcher once famously said: "Every Prime Minister needs a Willie". Lord Irvine is Blair's Whitelaw.

If that comparison is not exact, it is because the Lord Chancellor is both more intellectual and less political than Lord Whitelaw. He can cut instantly through bad arguments, often with a bombast that leaves colleagues and civil servants quailing. This

may be unpopular, but it is proving useful to a Government that needs its ministers to move from the soft platitudes of Opposition to the hard details of office. Lord Irvine abhors fuzzy thinking and insists that the consequences of policies are thoroughly thought through. But because he is unelected, he has no constituency to ensure that he retains the common political touch.

So far, the Lord Chancellor can claim credit for the swift dispatch of the two devolution White Papers and for the concessions they contained to allay English disquiet. He is also chairing the sub-committees on incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights and freedom of information, the results of which will soon be known. And he will be critical to the process of reforming the House of Lords. Mr Blair is apparently impressed by his performance so far; even those of his colleagues whom he has alienated admit that he is doing a good job.

Within Lord Irvine's own department, as well as incorporation, he has two more big issues to tackle: reform of legal aid and of civil justice. Although his officials find him demanding and difficult — particularly compared with his gentle predecessor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern — they cannot deny that his agenda and influence at the top have made their department more significant than it used to be. And it may become yet more so: the Lord Chancellor has his eye on some of the Home Office's criminal justice functions, and has already been embroiled in arguments with Jack Straw over the Crime and Disorder Bill. If Lord Irvine wants to preside over a full-scale Ministry of Justice, the territorial battles to come could be thunderous.

The legal profession is split on the Lord Chancellor's merits. Some find him pompous, many were offended by his talk of "fat cat" barristers. But at least they know that his views in Government count. In his influence with the Prime Minister and his position at the heart of Government, his effectiveness can be judged by the success of the administration. For its record so far, Lord Irvine deserves much of the credit.

SOLIDARITY AND FREEDOM

Virtues that Poland's new Government will need to combine

After four years of government by former Communists, Poland has again turned to the Christian, conservative and anti-Communist groupings which better reflect the loyalties of its voters than did the outgoing Democratic Left Alliance (SLD). The result, despite a confused election campaign and low voter turnout, ends a political anomaly brought about by the chronic divisiveness of the Right, which at the 1993 election split the popular vote between dozens of tiny groups, each too weak to pass the 5 per cent threshold needed to win parliamentary seats. That let in the SLD which, ruling with the unreformed rural Poustadists of the Peasant Party, gave Poland four years of stable government — not to mention a record of economic success that in most countries would have given the ruling coalition a second term.

In Poland, however, ideology and history still matter more than day-to-day performance. In power, the SLD mercifully jettisoned its leftist political platform and largely continued the reforms initiated in 1989 by Leszek Balcerowicz, the brilliant economist who served as Poland's first post-Communist Finance Minister. The result has been annual growth exceeding 6 per cent, budgetary discipline and soaring employment, productivity and real incomes. But the SLD was less ready to jettison the bad old political habit of packing the media, bureaucracy and state industries with party loyalists. That made it easy for the Solidarity trade union movement, once it had restored discipline by squeezing nearly 40 mini-parties under its AWS electoral umbrella, to beat the SLD by 34 per cent to 27 per cent by playing on enduring popular distrust of the Communist wolf in capitalist clothing.

Solidarity's victory, however, will be good news for Poland only if it carries its new political pragmatism into negotiations with

the coalition partners it will need for a parliamentary majority. The Peasant Party, whose support collapsed from more than 15 per cent to under 7 per cent, need be no part of the equation — happily, since it exists to defend the interests of the most inefficient farmers in Europe. The balance of power is held instead by Poland's most forward-looking party, the Freedom Union (UW), led by Mr Balcerowicz, which won an impressively strong 14 per cent on an uncompromising platform of rapid further modernisation and deregulation.

A successful marriage between Solidarity-AWS and the free-market UW will require a carefully drawn pre-nuptial contract. The ambition of Marian Krzaklewski, the AWS leader, is to recreate the Solidarity movement as a Christian Democrat party in the Western European mould. But AWS is a broad church which houses, alongside reformers, trade union militants, ultra-conservative Catholics and a troublingly high proportion of chauvinists distrustful of foreign investment. He must also curb his own populist instincts if Poland is to cut subsidies to inefficient but politically sensitive sectors such as the coal industry, speed up privatisation, liberalise trade and labour markets and cut payroll taxes to create jobs.

Now as in 1989, it is Mr Balcerowicz who has the best ideas on almost all these fronts. Mr Krzaklewski should therefore resist the temptation to treat his Freedom Union as a junior coalition partner and bring him and his ideas into the heart of government. Since this will be the political team responsible for negotiating the terms of Poland's entry into the European Union, the decisions on economic strategy that must be hammered out over the next few weeks will have more than parochial significance. Solidarity must find ways to cohabit with Freedom.

SAFETY FIRST

Human error should be overridden in trains

The crash of the Great Western train at Southall showed dramatically the forces involved and devastation caused when a full train travelling at over 100 mph hits another. John Prescott announced a full public inquiry. He also committed the Government to guaranteeing the safety of Britain's railways "whatever it takes". But if his promise is a commitment to spending vast sums on new safety devices, it may appear a rash hostage to an unattainable goal.

Railways are by far the safest form of land transport. The chance of being killed in a train accident is one in every 50 million passenger journeys. This compares with a one in 14 million chance of winning the National Lottery. In looking at safety, politicians, regulators and operators must inevitably balance the costs involved with the safety assured.

Yet the Southall crash reveals a culpable insouciance to safety. Great Western was one of only two lines to have had Automatic Train Protection (ATP) installed, but it was not switched on. The system was put in on an experimental basis and proved incompatible with ageing signalling systems and loco-

motive engineering. There was little incentive to harness the engineering skills needed to overcome these difficulties when it became clear that the system would not be universally adopted. But why, if it was already there, was it not made to work properly?

The second urgent question concerns the automatic warning system. Every train has a klaxon that sounds loudly in the cab if signals indicate that the train should slow down. In this case the system failed after the train had left Swansea, its point of origin. Safety rules give the driver discretion to complete the journey in such a case. But they were devised before the job of assistant driver was abolished and the "second pair of eyes" removed from the cab. If a driver is to proceed under these circumstances, he should, at the least, slow his speed.

In all transport systems where any crash could involve numerous fatalities, the aim is to eliminate human error. Aircraft are modified to override pilot error whenever this is found to have caused a crash. With trains, all attention has focused on improving signalling. What is needed is a system to prevent the consequences of human error.

Cost-cutting threat to rail safety?

From Mr Arvind Maharaaj

Sir, In the aftermath of Friday's Southall train crash, many in authority are hinting at the "unreliability" of the automatic train protection (ATP) system, implemented on two lines of track. A recommendation that it should be installed throughout the rail system was made by the inquiry into the Clapham rail disaster in 1988.

This system was selected to undergo a trial period over five years ago, and I worked for the department of British Rail, as it was then, which made the decision. The fact that it has taken all this time, and a tragic accident, to realise that the system may not be reliable, is not only cause for great concern, but leads to another question.

If the system had been purchased for trial by BR in the form used on continental railways, and not as a "cut-down", cheaper version, would its reliability be the subject of such agonising today?

In its full version the ATP system is employed effectively in Europe, with its reliability record intact. Not surprisingly, a "quick-fix" version, purchased under pressure from economists, has taken a long time to integrate into the UK's existing infrastructure, seemingly with tragic results. It was the promise of the speedy and reliable introduction of a fully working system that persuaded the drivers' union to agree to the ceasing of "double-manning" of high speed trains (report, September 22).

Having worked with railway signalling engineers in France for the past 18 months, I am convinced that there are no half-baked, cost-driven solutions when it comes to safety in railway signalling. The more committed railway engineers amongst us need to persuade the relevant authorities that a safe railway is a direct function of the operating and engineering disciplines, rather than the accountants who seem to have been occupying more and more decision-making positions since the early 1990s.

There are senior railwaymen out there, some retired and others still in active service, who were party to the questionable ATP decision all those years ago. I challenge them to speak out now, either to exonerate themselves or share some of the responsibility for this disaster.

Yours faithfully,
A. A. MAHARAJ
(Senior consultant, signalling systems)
1a Layton Road,
Brentford, Middlesex.
September 22

Crossed lines

From Mr Alec Gallagher

Sir, "[Blair] knows that privatisation works — rail consumer groups are always saying that services are better..." (from a book review by ex-minister Kenneth Baker, September 18).

"Figures released yesterday show a 55.8 per cent increase in letters to the Rail Users' Consultative Committee: there were 2,799 complaints from April to June, when all 25 train operators were in private hands" (News in Brief, same day).

Someone seems to be on the wrong track.

Yours faithfully,
A. R. GALLAGHER,
4 Mavis Court, 4 Raven Close, NW9,
September 18.

Public-sector pay

From Dr A. S. Clubb

Sir, As a general practitioner, I felt slightly embarrassed to read that my representatives are asking for a 10 per cent pay rise (letters, September 22).

The Prime Minister has magnanimously forgone his increase, perhaps aided by the profit he has made on the sale of his Islington residence. However, after considering that future entrants to the profession will have to repay loans for tuition fees and living costs, I now feel duty-bound to support this increase to safeguard their living standards.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN S. CLUBB,
15 Windsor Gardens,
Musselburgh, Midlothian.

Not everybody's taste

From Mr Garry Garrard

Sir, Perhaps consumers would be less inclined to buy mineral water (report, "Bottled water is just a con, say rivals", September 18) if the product delivered through their taps was pleasant to drink. Tap water may be safe, but controlling levels of bacteria is not sufficient to guarantee an acceptable product.

The Water Companies Association's report on bottled water is yet another example of the recent trend for suppliers of many commodities to claim product improvements against a narrow range of criteria, without considering whether the factors that their customers believe important are also included.

Yours faithfully,
G. A. GARRARD,
21 Harrington Drive, Bedford.
September 18.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Pressure for improved treatment of rape complainants

From Her Honour Myrella Cohen, QC

Sir, Having served as a circuit judge for almost 25 years and authorised to try cases of rape for most of that time, may I clarify a number of points raised in your reports (September 18) on pressure on the Home Secretary to change court procedures for rape cases.

First, whilst not wishing to minimise the trauma caused to complainants when they give evidence in the presence of the defendant, it is inappropriate for them to do so behind the type of screen at present used in Crown Courts to protect a child witness. The rights must also be considered of a defendant who should, as a hallowed principle of our legal system, in fairness, be able to see the accuser. May I suggest an alternative: a one-way glass screen could be used to shield the complainant from seeing the defendant, at the same time allowing him to see her while she is giving evidence.

Secondly, with regard to cross-examination of the complainant it is essential to test her account of the alleged rape. However, by virtue of the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 1976 no evidence and no cross-examination can be adduced or asked for or on behalf of the defendant about the complainant's sexual experience without leave of the judge.

Such leave will only be given if the judge is satisfied that it would be unfair to the defendant to refuse to allow the evidence to be given or the question asked in cross-examination. If the questions are intended to blacken the complainant's character, or are merely a "fishing expedition", or are intended to establish that the complainant had previous sexual experience so as to suggest that she ought not to be believed on oath, the judge will exclude the evidence and refuse to allow any such cross-examination.

I share the concern that many rape cases end in an acquittal. However, it should be borne in mind that many

such acquittals occur when the issue in dispute is consent, for example marital or date rape. In other words where it is the word of the complainant against that of the defendant and there is no independent evidence to show where the truth lies, jurors are extremely reluctant to convict.

Yours faithfully,
MYRELLA COHEN,
1 Peters Lodge,
Stonegrove, Edgware, Middlesex.
September 21.

From Sir Ludovic Kennedy

Sir, It is a cardinal principle of English law that when a defendant is charged with a criminal offence and pleads not guilty his previous convictions, if any, are not allowed to be disclosed.

Why cannot this admirable principle extend to victims of rape, who at present are subject to often cruel and degrading cross-examination about previous sexual experiences. Whether the victim has had 50 or ten or no previous couplings is surely irrelevant to the charge. There is only one question the jury need to answer. Did, on this occasion, the accused commit rape or not?

Yours etc,
LUDOVIC KENNEDY,
Ashdown House, Avebury, Wiltshire.

From Chief Superintendent Alan Moss

Sir, You report that Nigel Pascoe, QC, chairman of the Bar's public affairs committee, backs an overhaul of the rape laws, so long as they still allow vigorous cross-examination.

Unfortunately the way many barristers perceive and do their job may not help the court to see the truth of whether sexual intercourse took place without the victim's consent. Bullying defence tactics do appear to create injustice for the victims on whose behalf the system is meant to operate. Nigel Pascoe also claims that there is greater protection nowadays for victims of

sexual assault: I am sure this would be rejected by many outraged victims.

Parliament's wish, clearly set out in Section 2 of the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act, for the questioning of a rape victim's sexual history to be the exception rather than the rule, has in my view been subverted to the point where many barristers now indulge in this discredited tactic as routine, usually because judges allow it but sometimes when a prejudicial question "accidentally" slips in.

The balance of justice can be improved in relation to the rules governing the use of screens in courtrooms; but there also need to be directions given to judges, as well as more education and training of those involved in the prosecution and defence at rape trials, before we can even begin to claim that we might be ending a disgraceful injustice inflicted upon traumatised witnesses much in need of the law's protection.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN MOSS
(Chairman, Personnel and Training Advisory Committee),
Police Superintendents Association of England and Wales,
67a Reading Road,
Pangbourne, Berkshire,
alan@alanmoss.demon.co.uk

From Mr David Stone

Sir, When considering how best to respond to the fact that although more rapes are being reported there are fewer convictions, our new Home Secretary and his colleagues will no doubt bear in mind that sometimes the reason a person is not convicted of a crime is that he/she did not commit it and that justice requires any reform designed to increase protection for anonymous victims to include the corresponding protection of anonymity for defendants until conviction.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID STONE,
90 Peter Lane, EC4,
September 18.

Consequences of referendums for a disunited kingdom

From Mr R. F. Bond

Sir, Both the Scots and the Welsh have now satisfied the Government by referendum that they wish for self-government. History teaches that these steps are the first in the path to independence, despite Mr Blair's protestations to the contrary. Good luck to our former well-loved partners in Great Britain: they can now focus uniquely on the promotion of their own special interests both in these islands and in Europe.

I wish to reinforce the views of earlier correspondents (letters, September 13, 16, 18, 20) that there are serious and widespread implications for the English people who have had no voice so far in what has been happening.

The vague promise of English regional government (which I thought we had already in our county councils) is simply "divide and rule". Mr Blair has started a process which I believe to be irreversible, and I can see no current political party which can fairly represent the needs of English people.

Perhaps we should form an English national party to do just this.

Yours faithfully,
R. F. BOND,
Pine Copse,
Calthorpe Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight,
September 20.

From Mr Andrew Jones

Sir, Surely the Government cannot proceed with plans for Welsh devolution, given such a miserable showing at the polls. Wales can hardly be considered a nation yearning for such constitutional change.

If everything in Wales is to be dictated by arbitrary majority then there ought to be many more changes. The S4C television channel would be

closed down because of lack of interest: all road signs would appear in English only; and I would not be barred from applying for local government jobs in my home country because I do not speak a language I have never heard spoken in my home town of Welshpool.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW JONES,
35 Gungrog Hill, Welshpool, Powys.
960051@comnettech.co.uk

From Mr Ryan Chesters

Sir, Wales can now have its very own £117 million "super quango" with the ability to waste a £7 billion budget on bilingual road signs, more Welsh language Acts, esteddfod subsidies, and, most importantly, on a bottomless trough for political snouts.

However, as Westminster spends 25 per cent more per head on the people of Wales than it does on the English, I see this as a long-term cost-cutting exercise by new Labour, allowing it to ease tax-raising fears amongst Tony Blair's new friends in the Home Counties. Have no doubt, England is trying to cast off its poor neighbours.

The assembly is seen by nationalists as just one step down the path to independence. This would cause huge division in our country as well as conflict with England.

Yours etc,
R. CHESTERS,
69 Aberdaron Road, Rumney, Cardiff.

From Mr Robert Louis Sutherland

Sir, Scotland is unique in two ways. The country was governed through three successive general elections by a party that was consistently rejected; and it is the only country to have become poorer despite having massive oil reserves.

September 10.

This issue is usually referred to in stamp catalogues as the "ethnographical issue" and great care seems to have been taken in its production.

The Nentsii/Nentser were obviously known of in the 1930s and I find it hard to believe that they subsequently slipped out of the ken of those Soviet authorities responsible for ethnic affairs.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN A. HOULDING,
7 Gosforth Close, Bury, Lancashire.
mfs@cah@aol.com
September 10.

Tourism in Kenya

From the Permanent Secretary of the Kenyan Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife

Sir, While sporadic incidents of violence on the Kenya coast and the total unnecessary loss of life are to be deeply regretted, it should be pointed out that these have not involved foreign tourists.

Your report on September 12 (earlier editions) that a bus carrying British tourists "had to be diverted" from the scene of one such incident is rather different from fleeing a "gun battle on the beach" — as stated in your headline. The gunmen, it has been confirmed, did not open fire on the bus and Ukunda is not on the beach.

It is a pity, too, that you should embellish this story by stating that Kenya's image as a holiday resort had been "tarnished in recent years by the murder and rape of a number of tourists". We have no record of such events.

If you are referring to the death of Julie Ward, this occurred in 1988. It would be interesting to know how many visitors to Britain have been "murdered and raped" since then.

Yours sincerely,
S. M. MBOVA,
Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife,
PO Box 30027, Nairobi.

And your English readers (letters, September 13 and 16) wonder why we voted for devolution.

Yours faithfully,
R. L. SUTHERLAND,
10 Smithfield Street, Edinburgh 14.
suzanne@cableinet.co.uk
September 17.

From Sir Christopher France

Sir, Before anyone launches a campaign to create separate English regions, taking us back to Anglo-Saxon arrangements, may we please have an English referendum — or are the English not to be trusted as far as the Scots and the Welsh?

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER FRANCE,
Castle House,
High Street, Eynsford, Kent.
September 16.

From Mr Michael H. Reid

Sir, It was Robert Walpole, Britain's first Prime Minister, who stated in 1739 at the end of the War of Jenkins's Ear: "They now ring the bells, but they will soon wring their hands."

The only remaining trace of my Scottish heritage is my mean streak and my name, which you may speak without charge or prejudice.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL REID,
Maplesden,
Stonegate, Wadhurst, Sussex.
September 17.

From Mr R. M. Silverblatt

Sir, The United Kingdom?

Yours sincerely,
RONALD SILVERBLATT,
91 Kingsley Way, N2,
September 19.

Ask a silly question . . .

From Mr Colin Price

Sir, Surely the reason why apparently silly questions are asked at job interviews (letters, September 1, 10, 16, 20) is that the decision who will get the job has already been made and the interview is a mere formality.

Any answer given by the unsuccessful candidates is wrong and can be used as an excuse for rejecting them.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN PRICE,
15 Gordon Road,
Barking, Essex.
pr7799@euclac.uk
September 20.

From Mr Vic Barnard

Sir, In order to be taken on the permanent staff of *The Times* in 1954 I was sent for a medical check-up to the firm's doctor.

The eye test consisted of being told to look out of the window and asked, "What is the colour of that London bus?"

I got the job and spent 34 happy years at Printing House Square.

Yours faithfully,
V. E. BARNARD
(Member, *The Times* Night Composing Room, 1954-88),
30 Skimpans Close, North Mymms,
Hatfield, Hertfordshire.
September 20.

OBITUARIES

Viscount Tonypandy, PC, Speaker of the House of Commons, 1976-83, died yesterday aged 88. He was born on January 29, 1909.

One of the best known politicians of his time, George Thomas impressed his personality on the public in a slightly unorthodox way. Never quite a performer in the premier political league, he achieved star quality only after he had hung up his player's boots. It was as a result of sitting in the Speaker's chair in the Commons that he became a national figure.

But it had been a close-run thing. The lowest point of Thomas's career occurred when he found himself excluded from the Government that Harold Wilson formed in March 1974. No one had been more devoted — almost slavish — admirer of Wilson's leadership than the former Secretary of State for Wales, and to be repaid in this way hit him very hard.

With typical resourcefulness the new Prime Minister had, however, already devised an alternative plan for him — which was to see to it that, via the chairmanship of the Committee of Ways and Means, he became only the second Labour Speaker in Commons history (the first, Dr Horace King, had not been a great success).

When let in on the secret of what was planned for him, Thomas was consoled but not overjoyed. He thought that things could still go wrong, realising that since the post is not within the Prime Minister's gift he might never actually reach the Speaker's chair. But within two years he was installed, and it soon became apparent that, for once, the man and the office had been admirably matched.

Very soon after he was elected Speaker, Thomas began to acquire a public celebrity that had belonged to none of his predecessors. Regular radio broadcasting of Parliament, starting in April 1978, meant that his voice — with its distinctive Welsh lilt — became known to millions outside parliamentary circles. When the House was sitting, he was heard four mornings a week on the radio resolutely calling "Order, order". The televising of the Commons came five years after his retirement in 1983, but he certainly did as much as any Speaker until then to establish the rituals of Parliament in the public mind.

It was in February 1976 that this former Cardiff schoolteacher took over the Speakership from Selwyn Lloyd, who, unlike Thomas, had previously held most of the highest offices of state. A Labour Government was still precariously hanging on to a slender majority, and it was a rummousing House — especially following Harold Wilson's surprise resignation just a month after Thomas had come to the chair. He was assisted, though,

by a deep knowledge of procedure, which enabled him to react quickly and surely to problems as they arose. He was helped, too, by his bright humour, keen sense of timing and capacity for the gentle aside — always invaluable in defusing tense situations.

If anything let him down, it was a vein of malice that became apparent all too soon to those who had to work most closely with him, particularly in the clerks' department. It was an open secret that in his last days as Speaker he had done his ineffective best to block the promotion of Kenneth Bradshaw, a distinguished occupant of the principal chair on the clerks' table.

Thomas George Thomas, the son of a Rhondda miner, was born in Port Talbot and educated at Tonypandy Secondary School and University College, Southampton. He joined the Labour Party in 1925 and was a member of Cardiff Co-operative Party. His first political speech was delivered when he was only 18 to the Women's Co-op Guild of Tonypandy, and in 1936 he led a hunger march from that town to Cardiff.

It was the Cardiff Central constituency that he won — having lost out in the selection conference for Cardiff South by one vote to James Callaghan — at the general election of 1945. In 1950, after boundary changes, he was elected for Cardiff West, the seat he held until 1983.

Before coming to the Speakership, he was a firmly committed leftwinger, noted for a natural exuberance and Welsh *hwyl*. Few people in the South Wales of the 1950s owned the freedom of their homes, a legacy of 19th-century industrial development and the cause of widespread anxiety. Thomas made the campaign for leasehold reform his own. It lasted 15 years, until the Labour Government's Leasehold Enfranchisement Act of 1966, and at one time he took a stall in Cardiff market to publicise the cause.

Of even longer duration was his career as a Methodist lay preacher. This took him to almost every town in Wales and sometimes to the United States. In 1960 he attained the highest office open to a layman of his denomination when he became vice-president of the Methodist Conference, the first MP to hold that office. His eventual coat of arms incorporated an open Bible in addition to a miner's lamp, a leak and the Westminster portulac.

Thomas was Joint Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office, 1964-66, Minister of State at the Welsh Office, 1966-67, and at the Commonwealth Office, 1967-68. In April 1968 he became Secretary of State for Wales and thus for two years sat in a British Cabinet, albeit as a very junior member regarded as part of the Prime Minister's "payroll vote".

Although he was devoted to the Principality, it was not an easy time



to be the Cabinet minister with responsibility for Welsh affairs. Thomas loved Wales, but not the kind of Wales dreamt of by a minority of his fellow countrymen. Welsh nationalism — with which he was never in sympathy — was enjoying a considerable upsurge, and it was a sensitive time. There was more popular interest in Plaid Cymru (the Welsh Nationalist Party) than there had been for years. A handful of extremists were bombing pipelines and public buildings, and Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg (the Welsh Language Society) was campaigning with increasing effectiveness for more official support for the language.

Thomas opposed devolution at a time when a number of Labour politicians with far flimsier Welsh credentials were jumping on the bandwagon. Along with Lord Abse, he was unhappy about Labour's support for an elected assembly. Although a Welsh speaker himself, he regarded the stridency of Welsh language campaigners as a threat to the integrity of the United Kingdom. He was the first to talk of Wales as "the next Ulster". This was not the sort of warning many of his countrymen wanted to hear, and he was often called the tool of a colonising London government.

The comparison of Wales with Ulster was certainly less than judicious from someone in Thomas's position; he was in some ways an impetuous man, and the flord comments about the follies of

nationalism with which he regularly regaled journalists did not serve the cause of diplomacy.

But he was never in reality the pugacious dissenter that he sometimes seemed. The Investiture of Prince Charles as Prince of Wales at Caernarfon Castle in 1969 revealed him as the closest Conservative he had always essentially been. All the carefully rehearsed ceremonial meant that Thomas, as Secretary of State for Wales, had to work closely with the Duke of Norfolk, Earl Marshal of England. The Duke had kept his father's records of the 1911 Investiture, and envisaged a ceremony on the same vast scale. Although it fell to Thomas to tell him that the Government had set a limit to the expenditure, there is little doubt that he rejoiced in the role that he, like Lloyd George before him, had to play amid all the pageantry.

It was a great day for me, without snobbery at all, to be riding in the coach with the Prince. It turned out to be the foundation of a friendship, with the Prince of Wales inviting him to read the lesson at his marriage service to Lady Diana Spencer at St Paul's Cathedral in July 1981. He turned in a bravura performance, and was subsequently to recall how later that afternoon he was to be found waving a tea-towel from a window of Speaker's House as the royal couple drove to Waterloo to begin their honeymoon at Lord Mountbatten's former Hampshire home of Broadlands.

The boy from Rhondda had certainly come a long way. Weary of being chief Opposition spokesman for Welsh affairs when Labour was out of office, he had contemplated retirement from the Commons in 1972. It seems to have been only Harold Wilson's promise that he would assuredly be Secretary of State for Wales again in any future Labour government that kept him soldiering on. But that, of course, made the shock all the greater when he was not given the post in March 1974. But there were some close to the Prime Minister who felt that Thomas had not really been in tune with events during his stint at the Welsh Office. Plaid Cymru, which he had scarcely understood, had been shown to be a responsible political force, and had returned two MPs to the Commons, shortly to be joined by a third.

So, instead, Thomas was offered the position of Chairman of Ways and Means and Deputy Speaker. One of the most loquacious of politicians had been invited to become an impassive umpire. Nevertheless, over the next twelve years he furnished convincing proof of his suitability for the role of Speaker. (Some of his Labour colleagues complained that he bent over so far backwards in his efforts to be impartial that he ended up favouring Tory MPs.)

He retired from the Speakership in 1983, and was elevated to the House of Lords, not merely as a life peer but, at Margaret Thatcher's instigation, as the 1st Viscount Tonypandy (doubtless it suited her

to have a Labour hereditary peerage to bestow alongside that simultaneously conferred on Willie Whitelaw). Lord Tonypandy also held honorary fellowships and doctorates from several universities, at home and overseas.

Thomas's volume of memoirs, *George Thomas, Mr Speaker*, which appeared in 1985, chronicled, among other things, his bird's eye view of the disintegration of the last Labour Government, and his front-line experience of the introduction of broadcasting. Although the book became a bestseller, it was roughly handled by reviewers. Nor was it popular with all sections of the Labour Party. As well as being critical of Michael Foot, Thomas was particularly malicious about James Callaghan. He seemed to go out of his way to relate the story of how, during the 1963 leadership election, the then Shadow Chancellor had suggested that they should join each other in prayer, only to murmur as they were rising from their knees: "I hope I can count on your support in the leadership election, George." This snide anecdote, though, was probably best seen as a payback for Callaghan's own admission — also recorded in the book — that he had known all along that his fellow Cardiff MP was not going to be appointed Welsh Secretary in 1974.

Yet Thomas was too engaging — some might even have said too ingratiating — a character to incur animosities from his colleagues for long. On his 80th birthday, only four years later, the former Speaker drew warm tributes from some at least of those he had handled less than charitably in his book. He wrote a second, much less controversial work, *My Wales*, in 1986.

Thomas never married but had an unusually close relationship with his mother, a redoubtable woman known throughout the Valleys as "Mam". She featured often in her son's conversation, speeches and election addresses. She had a strong influence upon him and it was not until after she died in 1972 that, as a longtime temperance campaigner, he began occasionally to take a glass of whisky.

His last years were clouded by his battle against throat cancer, but he retained his powers virtually to the end, writing a particularly trenchant letter to *The Times* against rule from Brussels in 1995. In April 1996 he even appeared on a platform with Sir James Goldsmith in support of his Referendum Party and during last spring's election he had a prominent role in the video that the party produced and widely distributed. He may have started life as a left-wing rebel, but his last vision of himself was certainly as an old-fashioned British patriot.

There is no heir to the viscountcy, and it is now extinguished.

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There is no heir to the viscountcy, and it is now extinguished.

TETE MONTOLIU

Tete Montoliu, Spanish jazz pianist, died in Barcelona on August 24 aged 64. He was born there on March 23, 1933.

ONLY a handful of jazz pianists can claim to have developed a genuinely original jazz voice. Partly because of his blindness, partly because war-torn Barcelona offered a very limited exposure to jazz, and partly because his dazzling technique equipped him to realise almost any idea, Tete Montoliu became one of this select group.

From his first discs with Lionel Hampton in the 1950s, through his work with such leading jazz musicians as Ben Webster, Don Byas, Anthony Braxton and George Coleman, to the many albums under his own name, Montoliu's form of jazz with a Spanish accent made him one of the most significant of European jazz musicians.

He was born Vincente Montoliu Massana and his first influences were his father's work as a classical oboist at the Barcelona Opera, and his mother's liking for jazz records by pianists such as Earl Hines and Art Tatum.

At the Barcelona conservatory he studied piano and organ, but in 1946-47 he fell under the influence of one of the first postwar American jazz visitors to Europe, the saxophonist Don Byas, who lodged with his family and became a friend.

By his middle twenties, Montoliu's originality and prodigious technique had led to his playing and recording with many American jazz stars, starting with Lionel Hampton, who brought him into a Madrid studio in 1956.

At the start of the 1960s, Montoliu was resident at the Blue Note club in Berlin, where he played regularly with visiting American guests as well as with Europeans. In 1963-64 he moved to Copenhagen, where he worked alongside such relatively avant garde figures as Archie Shepp, Don Cherry and Roland Kirk, as well as more established mainstream performers such as Dexter Gordon and Kenny Dorham.

His first visit to America was in 1967, when he played at the Top of the Gate in New York's Greenwich Village. But it was in Europe in the 1970s that Montoliu found his true voice as a soloist and leader of a piano trio.

Montoliu was intrigued by drawing the sounds of other world-music traditions into jazz. He experimented with Brazilian and other Latin American sources, but his most successful experiments, culminating in the 1977 solo album *Catalonian Folkways*, absorbed the musical language of his native region into his hard-swinging bebop-influenced style.

He is survived by his wife, Montserrat Garcia-Albes.

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THE TIMES
Your first

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS
All 1997-8 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Terner's Scottish Cup count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS AWARDED		
Goalkeeper		
Keeps clean sheet (per half)**	+3 points	
Scores goal	+20 points	
Saves penalty	+1 point	
Full back/Central defender		
Keeps clean sheet*	+3 points	
Scores goal	+4 points	
Midfield player		
Keeps clean sheet*	+1 point	
Scores goal	+3 points	
Striker		
Scores goal	+2 points	
All players		
On winning side	+1 point	
Appearance*	+1 point	
Scores hat-trick	+10 bonus points	
Manager		
Wins	+3 points	
Draws	+1 point	

POINTS DEDUCTED			
Goalkeeper		Booked	-1 point
Concedes goal	-2 points	Concedes penalty	-1 point
Full backs/Central defender		Misses penalty	-1 point
Concedes goal	-1 point	Scores own goal	-1 point
All players		Manager	
Sent off	-3 points	Team losses	-1 point

Must have played a complete half in the match to earn +3 points
Must have played for 75 minutes in the match
Must have played for 45 minutes in the match



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ENTER ITF
£1,000, a signed Mitre football and a Mitre Sports bag, and tickets to a premier league match of your choice can be won every month, plus the chance to win £10,000 in a separate FA Cup League so enter the ITF now.

The manager of the month can be won by any team, no matter where it is in the overall ITF league. The prize simply goes to the person whose team scores the highest points in any one month. If you are a student or a woman (18 or over) you may also enter the appropriate mini-league, while under-18 year olds enter the appropriate mini-league, while under-18 year olds enter the appropriate mini-league.

By entering the ITF, your team will automatically be entered into a separate FA Cup league. Your players will earn you points for the FA Cup league (Littlewoods FA Cup and Tennents Scottish FA Cup) as well as the main ITF league.

Remember the earlier you register, the more transfers your team will be allocated.

HOW TO ENTER

Entries to ITF via The Times are now by phone only, on

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- 1) You must use a Touch-Tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and # flash key are Touch-Tone).
- 2) Choose 1 goalkeeper, 2 fullbacks, 2 central defenders, 4 midfielders, 2 strikers and a manager.
- 3) Do not spend more than 35 million.
- 4) Do not choose more than two individuals (2 players or 1 player and 1 manager) from any one club.
- 5) Once you have chosen your team, call the entry line, above, and follow these step-by-step instructions.
 - a) You must tap in (not speak) the full set of selections (covering the full set of positions) for each of your 11 chosen players and your manager.
 - b) You will be asked whether you wish to enter one of the mini leagues (women's, students', youth) if appropriate. If, so do as directed on the telephone.
 - c) You must speak the name of your team (no more than 16 characters), your name, address with postcode and your daytime telephone number.
 - d) You will be asked to enter an 8-digit personal identification number (PIN) at the end of the call. You must keep a note of this number as you will need your PIN for making transfers and checking your team score.

A new team will score points on future games. O891 calls cost 50p per minute. Your call will cost about double if made from a pay phone. In the event of there being more than one manager of the month, the winner will be chosen at random. In the event of there being more than one league winner, a Hebreak will operate.

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STUDENTS' LEAGUE
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WOMEN'S LEAGUE
Monthly prize of premiership tickets, signed football and sports bag

O Hodge	Avon's Calling	16
A Curran	Sligo County	16
H Irvine	He's Belles	17
A Hembrow	The Creonians 1	17
B Sharp	Penfield FC	17
E Steute	United States	17
J Gardiner	15 Chumbawumba	17
C L'ecuyer	Carines Crosets	18
R Barker	Diamond Blossoms	18
K Nicol	Cochester Jags	18
S Ahmed	The Bargain Fairy	18
L Mack	Legends Lads	18
J Hall	Jay Birds	18
S Whitfield	Snail Busters	18
T Llewellyn	Barneys Bears	18
K Tindall	Flash XI	18
D Shepard	Darl Destroyers	18
J Barling	Pace	18
E News	Betty's Boys	18
W Dale	Wendy's Whackers	18

N Wheatsley	H D G Is A Sad Waste	20
N Wheatsley	Wideridge Is Ill	17
N Wheatsley	Who Has My Ostrich	17
J Windest	Father Shabooob	17
P Henson	Hensonhammers	17
N Wheatsley	A Tight Horse Is Fun	17
D Archer	Milleniumfalcones	17
D Harber	Supersonic City2	17
Z Tener	Ziggy Greaves XJ	17
J Gardner	15 Tumbawumbies	17
W Sures	Tactical Chaos	17
G Hernandez	Marmite Union	17
R Gilpin	Inter Pubscubles	17
D Jones	D J Barney Army	17
M Drinklow	1 Dont Care	17
N Prior	Los Vencedores	17
M Ferguson	One Man And His Dog	17
N Hussain	The Dream Team	17
Alkinia	Gordon Allad FC	16
J McGill	The White Herons	16

D John	The Dream Team	16
S Wilson	Sarnostoparsel	16
D Hakim	Fem	18
T Langran		17
K Mustiers	Metal Liquors XI	17
L Noel	Llama Reels	17
S Saujani	Rugrats	17
E Swories	Enters Entertainers	17
E Wilson	Wilson Wanderers	17
NS Sims	Saints	17
K Wiche	Robbed	17
M McPhillips	Ballygallyovers	17
J Gardner	15 Chumbawumba	17
EW Browning	Edgework United	17
G Ausley	11 F Bentlers	17
A Eastwood	Bolders	16
K McClymont	Hardgate Hammers	16
G Cohen	Gregorians FC	16
A Hibbard	Andy's Blue Funs	16
S Tindall	Loxaceous Meim	16

1	Goulou Goulou	230	Mikowid	230
2	Wasselon United F.C.	230	Peter McDoulin	230
3	UK All Stars II	228	Dave D. Bragg	228
4	Slick as a Parrot	228	Bruce Trudgill	228
5	Alyssas Aces	224	Mr I Smith	224
6	Ca	223	Mr D Edinwaite Stainer	223
7	Jb4	223	Mr M Jones	223
8	Kihendi	220	Johnny Trigg	220
9	Teddybears Phonics	216	Mrs Sheila Roland	216
9	August in the Bag	216	Gordon Davidson	216
11	Aug I	212	D Ingham	212
12	AT	212	Mr Richards	212
12	West Kilbride Amateurs	211	Archie Knox/ Annark	211
13	Goose 4	209	S Legg	209
15	Don 2	209	D Shuter	209
16	Kethi 3	209	R Fairbairn	209
15	Skrapppers II	207	Mr PS Mirzane	207
18	Huns	207	Anilla	207
18	Bobs Boys	207	R Calder	207
19	Corn Out The Club	207	Mr R Cobbold	207
21	United	207	G Kooner	207
22	Legion	204	J W Goody	204
22	H D G Is A Sad Waste	203	N Wrenley	203
24	Bees XI	202	P Bown	202
24	Pegasus And Unicorns	202	V Cox	202
26	Horsensia Hotshots	201	H Lunt	201
26	Exid 4	201	J Heather	201
26	Gohli Brothers 25	201	Mr Rajesh Gohli	201
26	J	201	L Clark	201
30	Meati Prisoner FC	200	Mick The Thirk	200
30	Jordan 4	200	Bishir	200
30	Oh No No Juninho	200	Mr I Smith	200
33	Vanilla Club	199	C Miles	199
33	Goose 5	199	S Legg	199
33	Dp2	199	Mr D Patel	199
36	Beer Is Still To Come	198	Hennang Patel	198
36	A/C Athletic	198	GoCzar	198
36	Club Bb-30	198	Andy Robson	198
36	Allstars	198	Mr A Roy	198
36	Jb4	198	J W Goody	198
36	Scyllas Founders	197	M Scully	197
36	Phonatics FC	197	Millie Hutchinson	197
40	Am	197	Mr M Toole	197

Dean Blackwell	Wimborne	1
David Wetherall	Leeds United	1
Kenny Cunningham	Wimborne	1
Neil Radford	Barnley	1
Rob Savage	Leicester City	1
Simon Grayson	Asen Villa	1
Jason Ewell	Wimborne	1
Robert Lee	Newcastle United	1
Bjorn Kwame	Liverpool	1
John Salido	Coventry City	1
Phil Bobb	Liverpool	1
Paul Simpson	Derby County	1
David Seaman	Arsenal	1
Dennis Wise	Chelsea	1
Lee Carsley	Derby County	1
Kevin Hitchcock	Chelsea	1
Robbie Fowler	Liverpool	1
Kyle Lightbourne	Coventry City	1
Kevin Muscat	Crystal Palace	1
Richard Shaw	Coventry City	1
Forbes Kasparik	Leicester City	1
Frank Leboeuf	Chelsea	1
Dean Holtbyworth	Wimborne	1
John Berrford	Newcastle United	1
Steve Potts	West Ham United	1
Gary Mabbutt	Tottenham Hotspur	1
Robin Van der Laan	Derby County	1
John Hendrie	Barnley	1
Lee Dixon	Arsenal	1
Lee Sharpe	Leeds United	1
Patrick Berger	Liverpool	1
David Batty	Newcastle United	1
Richard Johnson	Leeds United	1
Graham Le Saux	Chelsea	1
Jonathan Hunt	Derby County	1
David Beckham	Manchester United	1
Spencer Prior	Leicester City	1
Alf-Inge Haaland	Leeds United	1
John Hartson	West Ham United	1
Tim Brasher	West Ham United	1
Nicky Butt	Manchester United	1
John Sciles	Tottenham Hotspur	1
Toddy Sheringham	Manchester United	1
Paul Williams	Coventry City	1
Kevin Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	1
David Watson	Everton	1
Darren Fletcher	Crystal Palace	1
Andy Townsend	Asen Villa	1
Ugo Ehiogu	Asen Villa	1
Gary Neville	Manchester United	1
Gianfranco Zola	Chelsea	1
Gareth Southgate	Asen Villa	1
David Tuttle	Crystal Palace	1
Darwyn Montgomery	Everton	1
Andy Roberts	Crystal Palace	1
Kesey Koolen	Leicester City	1
Colin Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	1
Steve Lomas	West Ham United	1
Nigel Martyn	Leeds United	1
Alan Shearer	Newcastle United	1
Andrew Liddell	Barnley	1
Andy Sinton	Tottenham Hotspur	1
Chris Powell	Derby County	1
Iain Dowie	West Ham United	1
Nicky Eaden	Barnley	1
Roger Crook	Tottenham Hotspur	1
Ian Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	1
Stewart Cuddehe	Wimborne	1
Steve Clarke	Chelsea	1
Alan Wright	Asen Villa	1
Mark Wright	Liverpool	1
Lars Bohinen	Blackburn Rovers	1
Mike Whitlow	Leicester City	1
Mark Edwards	Crystal Palace	1
John Colwell	Crystal Palace	1

Mukdon	Goulou Goulou	230
Peter McDerm	Wassinton United F.C	230
Deave J. By	UK All Stars II	230
Bruce Trudgill	Sick as a Parrot	228
Jimmy Tiger	Kinross	216
Mrs Sheila Borland	Theydehays Pinknicks	215
Gordon Grahame	Archie in the Bag	215
Archie Knoos' Anorak	West Kilbride Amateurs	215
Abilla	Huns	207
P Bown	Bees XI	201
Mr Releish Gehill	Geul Brothers	201
Mick The Thick	Meat Pizzaro FC	201
Bisho	Jordan 4	198
Hemang Patel	Bees is Still To Corn	198
GeCac	AC Adhric	198
Andy Robson	Oris 18-30	197
Mike Hutchinson	Psalmatics FC	197
Barba Pups a la Bacon	Novato Spoilers	195
Stewart McKim	United United	195

WIMBLEDON, once again, have not enjoyed the best of starts. After a confidence-building 3-1 success last weekend at St James' Park against Newcastle United, who were to overcome the might of Barcelona only four days later, the Dons were beaten by Crystal Palace, their landlords, in the south London derby at Selhurst Park on Saturday.

Nevertheless, three of their players, Dean Blackwell, Kenny Cunningham and Jason Euell, are in the top seven places in the PFA section of Interactive Team Football; Joe Kinnear would love to be in any of their positions in the FA

Carling Premiership.

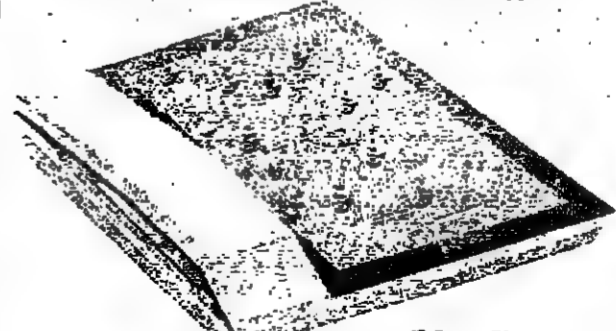
Blackwell, the former England under-21 international defender, a product of Wimbledon's successful youth policy, has now topped the PFA rankings in two successive seasons. With his team, Daniel's Lions. Thirty points this weekend enabled him to consolidate his place, with wing-backs Guppy and Beresford and Leicester City captain Steve Walsh weighing in with five each. In the real world, Blackwell's defence would have a distinctly top-sided feel. Right-back Beresford and wing-back Guppy, both of whom Walsh usually operates on the left side of Leicester City's back three.

Nigel Martyn (Leeds)
Steve Guppy (Leicester) 1
John Beresford (Newcastle)
Mark Wright (Liverpool)
Steve Walsh (Leicester) 1
Nigel Radford (Barnsley) 1
Benito Carbone (Sheff Wed)
Gustavo Poyet (Gloest)
Alan Thompson (Bolton) 1
Ian Wright (Arsenal) 3
Faustino Asprilla (Newcastle)
Joe Kinnear (Wimbledon)

only embarrassment, which Blackwell shares with Curd ingham and Euell, is that his manager — his own Wimbledon manager — Joe Kinnear — scored the grand total of minus one.

Midfield players Gustavo Poyer and Neil Redfearn, who finished on losing sides this weekend, still scored goals — another eight points there. The

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Call the ITF checkline on
0891 884 643
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Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

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Your full guide to ITF players and transfers

Who are the best full-backs in ITF at the moment — and what exactly is a full-back these days, anyway?



50 sports
Interactive

Yesterday's back pages were dominated by pictures of the player whose long-range, last-minute strike from distance won a keenly-contested London derby between Chelsea and Arsenal: not, for a change, one of the foreign glamour-boys like Zola or Bergkamp, both of whom scored, but one of football's unsung heroes, Nigel Winterburn, the full-back.

The term "full-back" is, these days, open to many interpretations. A player like Dan Petrescu of Chelsea is usually regarded as a wing-back, that modern hybrid of overlapping full-back, winger and wide midfielder player, but has been used almost exclusively in midfield this season. It is, perhaps, ironic that another full-back's effort,

Winterburn's, prevented Petrescu joining two other players as joint leading ITF points-scorers among full-backs.

Winterburn, despite a respectable score of 13 points, is not one of them. Instead, the lead is shared by Dennis Irwin of Manchester United, a full-back of the old school, and Steve Guppy, of Leicester City, converted to wing-back after a career as a left-sided midfielder player.

Guppy's total of 22 points so far was boosted by his team's clean sheet in their victory at Elland Road on Saturday. A week ago, he added four points to his tally with a superb goal in Leicester's 3-0 win over Tottenham Hotspur. Full-backs in ITF score three points for every shutout, while the relative scarcity of their goals means that their rare net-busters are worth four points a time.

Guppy is no unsung hero among staff members at Leicester City's club shop, bearing his name and number. "He's not as glamorous as Clividge, Heskey or Walsh," a spokesperson said, "but he's an up-and-coming player."

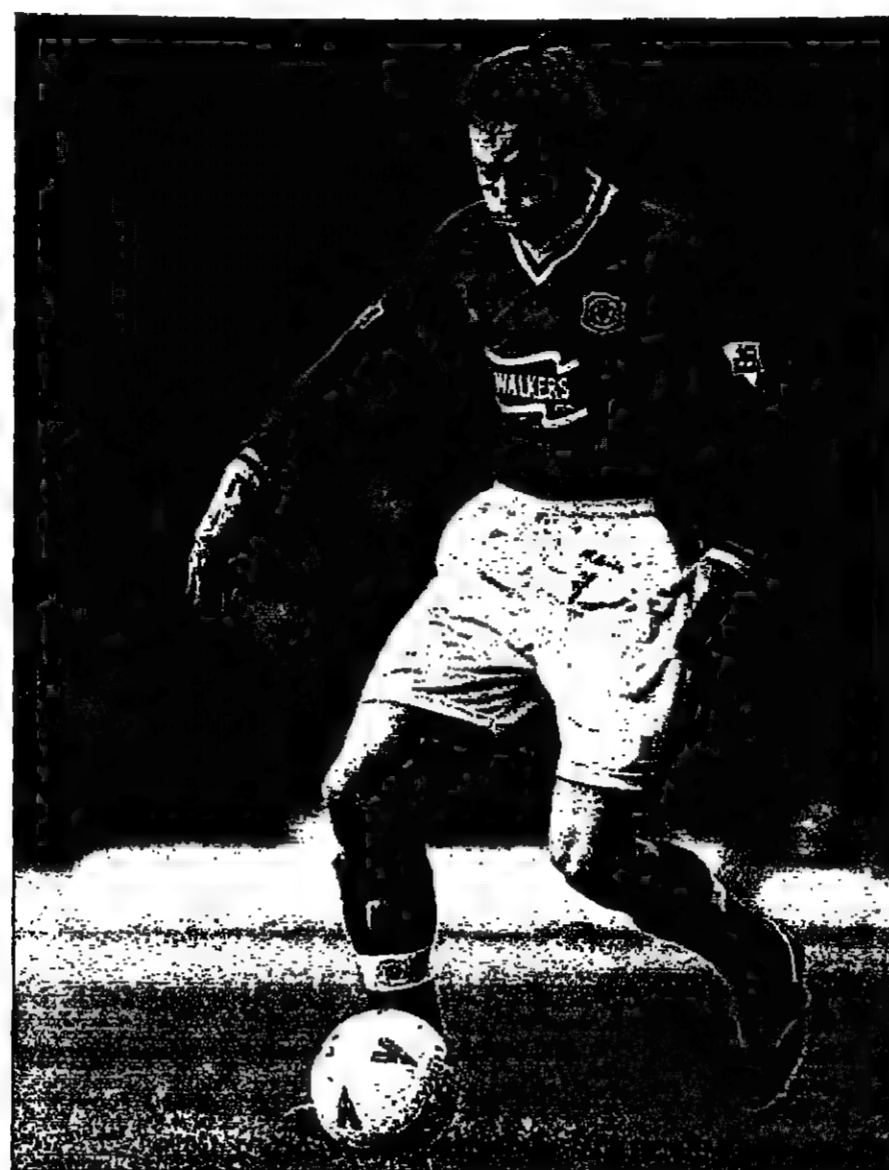
At the Manchester United Megastore, even now that Cantona merchandise has been consigned to the bins, it is unlikely that any records will be broken by sales of Dennis



TOP FULL-BACKS

Steve Guppy	22
Dennis Irwin	22
Gary Neville	19
Graeme Le Saux	14
John Beresford	13
Nigel Winterburn	13

Irwin replica shirts, but only a yellow card in Saturday's bruising encounter with Bolton cost the Republic of Ireland international outright leadership of the ITF's full-back division, mainly thanks to his team's outstanding defensive record — only one goal conceded in seven league matches. A regular penalty-taker, and a scorer in Kosice last week, his £4 million price-tag reflects his value to any team — on paper or grass.



Above left: Winterburn. Above Guppy, top scorer and part of a tight defence

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

IN			
21901	Tore Pedersen	Blackburn Rovers	£2.0m
30804	Mark Fish	Bolton Wanderers	£1.5m
32904	Ian Pearce	West Ham United	£2.0m
30704	Marc Reeper	Celtic	£0m

MOVED

21901	Michael Whitlow	Bolton Wanderers	£2.0m
transferred from Leicester City			

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

□ YOU MAY transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

□ EACH TEAM entered at the start of the season was allocated 60 transfers for the season and each team registering after that date has its number of transfers reduced by three per week up to December 12. All teams registered before noon that day will be allocated an extra 20 transfers. Teams registered after noon on December 12 will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of the season.

□ THE LINE is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-Tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-Tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

□ YOU MAY make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required number of transfers.

□ TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

□ YOUR NEW player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

□ CALLS COST 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 628.
Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

GOALKEEPERS				
Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week Total
10101	J. Leighton	Aberdeen	2.00	0 - 8
10201	D. Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	-2 19
10301	M. Boehm	Aston Villa	3.00	3 16
10401	D. Webster	Barnsley	1.00	-7 -11
10501	T. Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	7 7
10601	K. Brannagan	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	7 12
10701	S. Kerr	Celtic	4.00	0 0
10801	E. De Goey	Chelsea	3.00	-5 12
10901	S. Ogryzlo	Coventry City	1.50	7 7
11001	C. Nash	Crystal Palace	1.00	0 0
11101	K. Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00	8 18
11201	M. Poon	Derby County	1.50	0 16
11301	S. Dykstra	Dundee Utd	3.00	-3 -12
11401	I. Westwater	Dunfermline	1.00	2 -1
11501	N. Southall	Everton	2.00	0 -14
11601	G. Rousset	Hartlepool	1.50	0 0
11701	C. Reid	Hibernian	1.00	0 0
11801	D. Lekevic	Kilmarnock	1.00	0 -7
11901	N. Martyn	Leeds Utd	3.50	2 2
12001	K. Kellar	Leicester City	2.00	8 31
12101	D. James	Liverpool	3.50	2 14
12201	P. Schmeichel	Manchester Utd	5.00	7 49
12301	S. Howie	Motherwell	1.00	0 0
12401	S. Given	Newcastle Utd	4.00	8 14
12501	A. Goram	Rangers	5.00	0 3
12601	K. Pressman	Sheffield Wed	2.50	0 -11
12701	M. Taylor	Southampton	1.50	0 0
12801	A. Maini	St Johnstone	0.50	-3 -4
12901	J. Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	7 16
13001	L. Miklosko	West Ham Utd	2.00	2 10
13101	N. Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50	2 7

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week Total
20201	L. Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	0 3
20202	N. Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	4 13
20203	E. Palfy	Arsenal	2.50	0 1
20301	S. Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00	1 9
20302	A. Wright	Aston Villa	3.00	1 8
20303	S. Grayson	Aston Villa	2.50	0 7
20304	F. Nelson	Aston Villa	2.00	1 5
20401	N. Eason	Barnsley	0.50	0 -2
20402	N. Thompson	Barnsley	0.50	0 0
20501	J. Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	4 12
20502	P. Valery	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	1 8
20601	N. Cox	Bolton Wanderers	2.00	0 3
20602	R. Elliott	Bolton Wanderers	2.00	0 4
20701	T. Boyd	Celtic	3.50	5 9
20702	T. McKinley	Celtic	3.50	0 0
20703	J. McNamara	Celtic	3.00	2 2
20801	G. Le Saux	Chelsea	4.00	-2 14
20802	D. Petrescu	Chelsea	4.00	0 21
20803	C. Babayaro	Chelsea	2.50	0 0
20901	D. Burrows	Coventry City	1.00	3 1
20902	B. Borrows	Coventry City	1.00	0 0
20903	M. Hall	Coventry City	1.00	4 2
21001	D. Gordon	Crystal Palace	1.50	5 8
21002	M. Edwards	Crystal Palace	1.50	1 5
21003	K. Milscock	Crystal Palace	1.00	5 8
21101	C. Powell	Derby County	1.50	-1 9
21102	D. Yates	Derby County	1.00	0 0
21201	A. Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.50	0 -5
21401	E. Barrett	Everton	1.50	0 -1
21402	T. Phelan	Everton	1.50	0 3
21403	G. Locke	Hartlepool	1.50	0 0
21501	D. Kerr	Kilmarnock	1.00	0 0
21601	G. Kelly	Leeds Utd	2.50	0 -3
21701	G. Kelly	Leeds Utd	2.50	0 -3
21801	D. Robertson	Leeds Utd	1.50	4 4
21901	M. Whitlow	Leicester City	1.50	5 22
21902	S. Guppy	Leicester City	1.50	5 22
22001	S. Bjornbeys	Liverpool	4.00	0 5
22002	J. McAteer	Liverpool	4.00	0 1
22101	D. Irwin	Manchester Utd	4.00	3 22
22102	G. Neville	Manchester Utd	3.50	4 19
22103	P. Neville	Manchester Utd	3.50	-1 11
22201	S. Watson	Newcastle Utd	3.00	5 9
22301	S. Watson	Newcastle Utd	2.00	4 8
22302	W. Barton	Newcastle Utd	1.50	5 13
22303	J. Beresford	Newcastle Utd	1.50	0 6
22304	S. Pearce	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0 6
22401	A. Cleland	Rangers	3.00	5 4
22402	S. Stanssens	Rangers	3.00	5 4
22501	P. Blondeau	Sheffield Wed	2.50	0 -10
22502	I. Nolan	Sheffield Wed	2.00	4 -4
22701	J. Dodd	Southampton	1.00	0 0
22702	F. Benall	Southampton	0.75	-1 -1
22703	C. Whitton	Southampton	0.75	0 0
22801	C. Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0 0
22802	J. Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	4 1
22901	J. Dicks	West Ham Utd	3.00	0 0
22902	A. Impey	West Ham Utd	1.50	0 0
23001	B. Thatcher	Wimbledon	2.00	0 1
23002	K. Cunningham	Wimbledon	2.00	0 -2
23003	A. Kimble	Wimbledon	2.00	-1 -3

CENTRAL DEFENDERS				
Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week Total
30101	B. O'Neil	Aberdeen	2.00	-2 -11
30201	T. Adams	Arsenal	3.50	0 0
30202	M. Keown	Arsenal	3.50	0 0
30203	G. Grimandi	Arsenal	2.00	0 8
30301	G. Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	1 5
30302	U. Ehojogu	Aston Villa	3.50	1 10
30401	A. De Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00	-4 -6
30402	A. Moses	Barnsley	0.50	-4 -6
30403	M. Appleby	Barnsley	0.50	-1 2
30501	C. Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	4 9
30502	S. Hancock	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	4 1
30601	G. Taggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	4 5
30602	G. Bergsson	Bolton Wanderers	1.00	3 7
30603	C. Fairclough	Bolton Wanderers	1.00	0 0
30701	E. Annoni	Celtic	3.00	0 0
30702	M. Mackay	Celtic	3.00	0 2
30703	A. Stubbs	Celtic	3.00	5 8
30801	F. Leboeuf	Chelsea	3.00	-4 8
30802	M. Duberry	Chelsea	3.00	-2 8
30803	S. Clarke	Chelsea	2.50	0 8
30804	B. Lambourne	Chelsea	2.50	0 0
30901	L. Dalish	Coventry City	1.50	0 0
30902	R. Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	4 4
30903	P. Williams	Coventry City	1.50	4 0
31001	A. Roberts	Crystal Palace	1.50	5 5
31002	A. Linington	Crystal Palace	0.75	5 5
31003	D. Tuttle	Crystal Palace	0.75	2 0
31101	I. Stimitac	Derby County	2.50	0 1
31102	J. Laurson	Derby County	1.50	-1 3
31201	S. Pressley	Dundee Utd	3.00	-2 -3
31301	G. Shields	Dunfermline	1.50	0 -3
31401	S. Bilic	Everton	3.00	0 -2
31402	D. Watson	Everton	2.00	0 -1
31501	D. Weir	Hartlepool	2.00	1 7
31601	J. Hughes	Hibernian	1.50	0 4
31602	D. Wetherhall	Leeds Utd	2.00	0 -1
31603	G. Hall	Leeds Utd	2.00	0 -2
31604	R. Molester	Leeds Utd	2.00	-1 -2
31701	L. Radebe	Leeds Utd	1.50	0 -3
31801	M. Elliott	Leicester City	3.00	5 24
31901	P. Karmark	Leicester City	2.00	5 17
31902	S. Walsh	Leicester City	1.50	5 25
32001	M. Wright	Liverpool	3.00	0 5
32002	D. Matteo	Liverpool	3.00	0 0
32003	B. Kvarine	Liverpool	3.00	-1 4
32004	H. Berg	Manchester Utd	3.00	4 20
32101	D. May	Manchester Utd	3.50	0 0
32102	G. Pallister	Manchester Utd	3.50	-3 22
32201	P. Albert	Newcastle Utd	3.00	5 8
32202	D. Peacock	Newcastle Utd	2.00	1 5
32301	S. Howey	Newcastle Utd	2.00	1 1
32302	A. Plistone	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0 3
32401	S. Porini	Rangers	3.50	5 3
32402	J. Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	5 8
32403	L. Amoroso	Rangers	3.50	0 0
32501	D. Walker	Sheffield Wed	2.50	4 1
32502	J. Newsome	Sheffield Wed	2.50	4 2
32503	P. Atherton	Sheffield Wed	2.50	0 -8
32701	R. Dryden	Southampton	1.00	0 0
32702	C. Lundekvam	Southampton	1.00	0 -1
32801	S. McCuskey	St Johnstone	0.50	-1 0
32802	S. Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	4 2
32803	J. Scates	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0 6
32804	R. Vega	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0 -4
32805	C. Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0 9
32901	R. Ferdinand	West Ham Utd	2.50	0 1
32902	R. Hall	West Ham Utd	2.00	0 0
31403	D. Unsworth	West Ham Utd	2.00	0 0
32903	S. Potts	West Ham Utd	1.50	0 1
33001	C. Perry	Wimbledon	2.50	-1 1
33002	D. Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.50	0 -2

MIDFIELD PLAYERS				
Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week Total
40101	E. Jess	Aberdeen	3.00	1 4
40102	P. Bernard	Aberdeen	2.00	0 2
40201	M. Overmars	Arsenal	5.50	2 16
40202	P. Vieira	Arsenal	5.50	2 11
40203	S. Hughes	Arsenal	2.50	0 1
40204	R. Parfleur	Arsenal	2.50	2 15
40205	D. Platt	Arsenal	1.50	0 3
40301	M. Draper	Aston Villa	4.00	2 15
40302	I. Taylor	Aston Villa	2.50	2 13
40401	N. Redfearn	Barnsley	3.00	4 19
40402	E. Tinkler	Barnsley	2.00	0 9
40403	D. Sheridan	Barnsley	1.00	0 3
40404	M. Bullock	Barnsley	0.50	0 8
40501	J. Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	2 15
40502	B. McKinlay	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0 7
40503	T. Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	1 1
40504	G. Filtrout	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	1 11
40601	A. Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	3.00	2 12
40602	S. Sellars	Bolton Wanderers	2.00	1 8
40603	P. Frandsen	Bolton Wanderers	2.00	1 8
40604	M. Johansen	Bolton Wanderers	2.00	0 0

MIDFIELD PLAYERS				
Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week Total
40605	J Potlock	Bolton Wanderers	2.00	2 9
40701	A Thom	Celtic	4.50	3 9
40702	P O'Donnell	Celtic	3.00	1 2
42503	R Blinkler	Celtic	1.50	0 4
40704	C Buxley	Celtic	3.00	3 14
40801	D Wias	Chelsea	4.00	0 13
40802	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	4.00	1 13
40803	E Newton	Chelsea	2.50	0 0
40804	G Poyet	Chelsea	2.00	4 17
40901	G McAllister	Coventry City	2.50	2 8
40902	T Soltau	Coventry City	1.50	1 11
40903	J Salako	Coventry City	1.50	2 11
41002	S Rodger	Crystal Palace	1.00	0 7
41003	D Pitcher	Crystal Palace	0.25	0 0
41004	P Wetherust	Crystal Palace	1.50	3 12
41005	A Lombardo	Crystal Palace	2.50	6 15
41101	A Asanovlov	Derby County	2.50	0 2
41102	S Eranio	Derby County	2.50	1 7
41103	D Powell	Derby County	1.50	0 1
41104	C Daillly	Derby County	1.50	1 7
41105	R Van Der Laan	Derby County	1.00	0 7
41106	J Hunt	Derby County	1.00	1 11
41201	R Winters	Dundee Utd	3.50	0 9
41301	A Smith	Dunfermline	2.00	5 13
41302	D Fleming	Dunfermline	1.50	0 1
41401	G Speed	Everton	3.50	8 17
41402	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50	0 0
41403	G Farrelly	Everton	1.25	1 4
41404	D Williamson	Everton	2.00	2 6
41501	N McCann	Hears	2.50	1 12
41601	C Jackson	Hibernian	2.00	0 1
41602	B Lavelly	Hibernian	2.00	0 12
41701	J McInyre	Kilmock	2.00	0 0
41001	D Hopkin	Leeds Utd	3.50	0 9
41801	L Bowyer	Leeds Utd	3.00	0 3
41802	A Hasaland	Leeds Utd	2.50	1 4
41803	L Sharpe	Leeds Utd	2.50	0 0
41901	G Parker	Leicester City	2.00	2 5
41902	N Lennon	Leicester City	2.00	3 13
41903	M Tzetz	Leicester City	2.00	2 14
41904	S Taylor	Leicester City	1.50	0 0
42001	S McManaman	Liverpool	7.00	1 12
42002	O Leachardson	Liverpool	4.00	0 0
42003	M Thomas	Liverpool	3.00	1 11
42004	J Redinapp	Liverpool	3.00	0 0
42006	P Ince	Liverpool	5.00	1 12
42101	D Beckham	Manchester Utd	8.00	1 19
42102	R Giggz	Manchester Utd	7.00	0 18
42103	R Keane	Manchester Utd	5.00	2 23
42104	N Butt	Manchester Utd	4.00	2 21
42105	A Cole	Manchester Utd	5.00	1 9
42201	S Davies	Motherwell	2.00	0 0
42301	R Lee	Newcastle Utd	5.00	2 8
42302	K Gillespie	Newcastle Utd	3.50	2 6
42303	D Batty	Newcastle Utd	2.50	3 3
42305	J Barnes	Newcastle Utd	2.50	5 5
42401	B Lundrup	Rangers	3.00	3 7
42402	P Gascogne	Rangers	6.00	1 4
42403	J Thern	Rangers	4.00	2 2
42404	J Albrecht	Rangers	4.00	2 6
42501	B Carbone	Sheffield Wed	3.00	0 15
42701	J Magilton	Sheffield Wed	1.50	1 8
42502	M Pembridge	Sheffield Wed	2.50	1 4
42504	G Hyde	Sheffield Wed	1.00	0 4
42702	R Slater	Southampton	0.75	0 2
42703	N Middleton	Southampton	0.75	0 10
42704	K Richardson	Southampton	0.50	1 1
42801	A Sekterlioglu	St Johnstone	0.75	1 6
42801	A Sinton	Tottenham	3.00	0 5
42802	D Anderson	Tottenham	3.00	0 0
42803	R Fox	Tottenham	2.00	2 8
42804	D Howells	Tottenham	2.00	2 11
42805	D Glavin	Tottenham	2.50	2 6
42901	E Berkovic	West Ham Utd	2.50	1 15
42902	S Lomas	West Ham Utd	2.50	0 8
42903	J Moncur	West Ham Utd	2.00	0 6
42904	M Hughes	West Ham Utd	1.50	1 4
43001	R Earle	Wimbledon	4.50	0 4
43002	N Ardley	Wimbledon	2.00	0 4
43003	V Jones	Wimbledon	2.00	1 3
43004	C Hughes	Wimbledon	1.50	0 0

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TODAY


BUSINESS

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 23 1997

5th

Nomura to sell Inntrepreneur pubs within 3 years

By DOMINIC WALSH

NOMURA, the Japanese investment bank that yesterday purchased Inntrepreneur and Spring Inns for £1.2 billion, expects to float off or securitise its pub interests within two to three years. The company said it planned to conduct a short-term securitisation to enable it to review and sort out the business over the next couple of years. It would then decide whether to seek an exit for its investment via a flotation, trade sale or long-term securitisation.

The acquisitions, which add 4,300 pubs to its existing 1,100-strong Phoenix Inns chain, make Nomura the biggest independent pub

operator, and will give it huge buying power when dealing with suppliers.

Mike Bennett, of the *Licensee and Morning Advertiser*, the trade journal, said the scale of The Grand Pub Company, the new vehicle set up by Nomura for its pub interests, would be a "buying group of awesome strength".

Mike Foster, chief executive of Inntrepreneur, admitted the addition of Spring and Inntrepreneur to Phoenix would secure better deals when buying things such as gas and electricity. However, he pointed out that Phoenix had no beer tie, and therefore negotiations with Scottish & Newcastle, which has the contract to supply

beer until next year, would encompass only Spring and Inntrepreneur's 4,300 pubs.

Inntrepreneur was set up in 1991 as a venture between Grand Metropolitan and Foster's Brewing Group, but has been an unhappy experience. Inntrepreneur's decision to introduce 20-year leases at much higher rents while charging tenants above market rate for their beer produced a sea of litigation from disgruntled licensees.

Martin Moore, head of the Inntrepreneur licensees action group, warned that yesterday's sale would not diminish efforts to have the terms of the 20-year leases declared illegal in Brussels and London. Central to the latest action will be Inntrepreneur's

recent success in getting the Office of Fair Trading to reverse a ruling that the tie should be removed from March 1998. "We are going forward with over 1,000 litigants in a new action before the High Court. We expect to issue proceedings in the next three to four weeks," he said. Observers say an out-of-court settlement of around £150 million is the most likely outcome.

For GrandMet the disposal of its stake in Inntrepreneur will be a relief as it concentrates on consummating its planned £24 billion merger with Guinness. Yesterday's deal, due to go through at the end of March, will realise £425 million for GrandMet, resulting in net proceeds of £195 million

compared with a net book value for its stake in Inntrepreneur and Spring Inns of £212 million. Including £37 million of goodwill previously written off, the sale will produce an exceptional loss for GrandMet of £54 million. Most analysts were impressed by the price GrandMet and Foster's have realised. In the year to September 1996 Inntrepreneur reported a loss of more than £12 million on sales of £114 million, but industry sources claim this year's figures will show a loss nearer £30 million on turnover of just £85 million.

Commentary, page 27
Troubled past, page 29

Tunnel makes first profits

By JASON NISSE

EUROTUNNEL made its first interim operating profit in its 11 years of existence and said it was confident of striking a deal with banks and the British Government, putting the company on track to meet the financial targets set as part of a £4.4 billion refinancing.

Patrick Ponsolle, joint chairman of the heavily indebted group, said that he was "99 per cent confident" that the group's 174 bankers would approve the refinancing deal backed by shareholders in July, but said there was only a "10 per cent chance" they would meet the original deadline of the end of this month.

The reason given was that many of the banks holding small amounts of Eurotunnel debt had written the value down so much that it was a low priority, and so were taking their time in signing the complex refinancing agreements and returning them to Eurotunnel's agent banks, which include NatWest and Banque Nationale de Paris. M Ponsolle said banks holding more than 50 per cent of Eurotunnel's debt had already agreed to the restructuring.

Also at a critical stage are Eurotunnel's negotiations with the British and French governments over its demand for a 34-year extension to its operating licence, taking the franchise to 2036. The Department of

Transport said yesterday that it wants a higher share of the profits for the years 2052-96 than the 25 per cent on offer as well as a commitment to promote rail freight by cutting its prices. M Ponsolle said the freight issues were complex. "We want to promote freight but not at a price that is ridiculous," he said.

Geoff Thomas, an analyst at Klesch & Co, the secondary debt trader, said the DoT's attempts to force Eurotunnel into a freight price cut would have an immediate effect on its finances and could threaten the debt deal. "It is not sensible for the DoT to dig its heels in," said Mr Thomas.

The debt deal — the third since the Anglo-French company won the franchise to build the tunnel in 1986 — will cut interest payments by a third. In the first half of this year interest charges turned Eurotunnel's £7 million operating profit into a net loss of £33 million. The group had a turnover of only £230 million in the half, 12 per cent up on the same period last year, and this was boosted by £52 million of insurance payments after the fire last November.

George-Christian Chazot, Eurotunnel's managing director, said the main objectives for this year were to restore the position Eurotunnel had in the cross-Channel market before the fire. On freight Eurotunnel has 29 per cent of the cross-Channel market.

The group admitted it had suffered because of a price war among the ferry companies during the summer. However, the planned merger between P&O and Stena, which still awaits approval from British and European competition authorities, might ease the issue.

Eurotunnel shares were unmoved at 67p. The traded bank debt, which at its lowest point traded at 32p in the pound, rose to 54.5p.



Ponsolle: confident

Commentary, page 27



On track: Eurotunnel expects to conclude a deal with banks to cut interest payments, enabling it to get back on target to meet its financial commitments

Retailers ready for fight over power charges

By ADAM JONES

BOOTS and J Sainsbury will today lobby John Birtle, the Energy Minister, over concerns about the move towards full competition in the electricity market.

Boots and Sainsbury's are leading a campaign against their electricity suppliers, claiming that savings on energy may be wiped out by higher administrative charges from the electricity suppliers.

The Utility Buyers Forum, a group of businesses and public sector organisations that includes the two high street groups, claims that a charge levied on large corporate customers was about to go up by 40 per cent.

The electricity pool — the body running the wholesale electricity market and responsible for setting the charge — denied the claim, saying the levy was more likely to go down next year. At the moment, large power users are the only ones able to shop around for electricity. Next year, all users will be able to shop around.

A charge is levied to recover the administrative cost of all

lowing these customers a choice of supplier. It is currently £565, levied on each site that has a meter. Companies such as Boots have hundreds of these sites.

The UBF claims that the charge was likely to be as high as £800 a site next year, saddling UK companies with an extra £12 million bill. It said this would erode any benefits gained from shopping around.

The charge has risen from £300 a site in 1994, to £299 in 1995. Last year, Sainsbury's stopped payment in protest at the rapid increases since then.

Andrew Jones, Boots energy manager, said: "So far, the industry has failed to address our concerns."

Ian Taylor, Sainsbury's energy manager, said: "We mean to ensure that electricity competition brings the value for money that has been promised."

A Department of Trade and Industry spokesman said Mr Birtle was keeping the issue under scrutiny.

Commentary, page 27

Dividends of £258,400 for minister

By CHRIS AYRES

AS the dispute within the Labour party over ministerial salaries raged, it emerged that Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, will receive £258,400 in interim dividends from TransTec, the engineering company of which he is the major shareholder.

Mr Robinson, MP for Coventry North West, resigned as chairman of TransTec after the election in May. But he still holds shares worth about £32 million. He is one of three top Labour politicians not paid a ministerial salary, alongside Lord Simon, a junior minister at the Department of Trade and Industry, and Joan Ruddock, Minister for Women. All three are paid only their backbench MP's salaries of £43,860 — instead of a ministerial salary of £74,985 — because parliamentary rules state that only a limited number of ministers can have paid positions.

Yesterday TransTec reported interim pre-tax profits of £7.6 million (£4.5 million) and earnings of 3.3p a share (2.8p). The interim dividend is 0.85p (0.74p).

Dollar and Dow show pound and shares the way

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE pound tracked the dollar higher against the German mark yesterday after the weekend's G7 meeting failed to dip the wings of the US currency.

The stock market also enjoyed a strong day's trading, with the FTSE 100 closing within touching distance of a record high.

The pound soared nearly three pence to close at DM2.8750, while sterling's trade weighted index also rose 0.6 to 100.3. But the pound lost half a cent against the strengthening dollar — which also made ground against the mark and the yen — to close at \$1.6031.

Analysts said the pound had benefited as the dollar stormed higher on the back of a weak G7 statement on currency levels. G7 finance ministers made a fleeting reference to the danger of "excessive" currency depreciation leading to trade imbalances, but failed to address directly American concerns that the weak yen is bolstering Japanese exports. Renewed speculation over further interest

rate rises in the UK, coupled with roasting expectations of an immediate rate increase in Germany, also helped to underpin the pound's latest climb.

The stock market was pushed higher by another strong performance on Wall Street and a steep jump in index future prices.

The FTSE 100 closed up 51.9 at 5,075.7, just short of its record high of 5,086.8 set on August 7, although trading volume was thin. The FTSE All-share index, the broadest index, also climbed 19.20 points to hit a record high of 2,382.2.

Analysts said that there is some speculation that major cash-holding institutions may return to the stock market before the end of the quarter, but despite the latest rise in the index the mood remains one of caution.

The Dow Jones cleared 8,000 in early trading before slipping back slightly to 7,986.03, a rise of 68.76 points.

Malaysian freefall, page 26
Stock market, page 28

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET

FTSE 100	5075.7	(+51.9)
FTSE All share	2381.5	(+19.2)
Nikkei	14201.32	(+143.1)
Dow Jones	8011.21	(+64.56)
S&P Composite	953.63	(+9.12)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	100 3/4%	(99 1/4%)
Yield	6.94%	(6.93%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	7 1/4%	(7 1/4%)
Life long gilt	117 1/2%	(117 1/2%)
Future (Dec)	117 1/2%	(117 1/2%)

STERLING

New York	1.6025*	(1.6115)
London	1.6025	(1.6092)
DM	2.8740	(2.8504)
FF	1.6725	(1.6820)
Sfr	2.3572	(2.3454)
Yen	196.76	(196.00)
E Index	100.8	(100.2)

US\$/\$ DOLLAR

London	1.7940*	(1.7743)
FF	6.0275*	(5.9625)
Sfr	1.6725	(1.6820)
Yen	122.11*	(122.23)
E Index	106.2	(105.7)

Tokyo close Yen 122.71

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Dec)	\$18.80	(\$18.40)
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GOLD

London close	\$321.05	(\$322.45)
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* denotes midday trading price

ENIC deal gives Levy £18m of options

By JASON NISSE

DANIEL LEVY, the managing director of ENIC, the investment company with interests in Glasgow Rangers Football Club and Vicenza, the Italian Cup winners, has been given share options worth £18.2 million.

The award follows the completion of a £51 million financing deal. This brings in Richmond, the South African-controlled media, retail and luxury goods group, as an investor, alongside Joe Lewis, the billionaire financier, and leading fund managers, including Mercury Asset Management, Legal & General, Hill Samuel and Murray Johnstone.

Mr Levy, 35, was brought in to ENIC in November 1995 to run a trust that was then the investment vehicle of Mr Lewis. A deal struck then gave Mr Levy 7.5 million convertible shares, which could be swapped for ordinary shares in ENIC at 32.7p each, once he has struck a financing deal worth £10 million or more.

After yesterday's deal he can swap the shares at any time until December 31, 2000. ENIC shares fell 10p yesterday to close at 27.5p, valuing Mr Levy's interest at £18.2 million.

Richmont's investment is expected to lead to larger deal in European media and sport. Richmont has a stake in Canal Plus, which controls French and Italian pay-TV, and owns Paris St Germain, the French football and rugby club.

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Unions propose training levy on companies

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

COMPANIES across Britain would be required to pay 2 per cent of their payrolls to fund employee training under proposals drawn up by two of the UK's biggest unions which are being put to the Government.

Leaders of the TGWU transport union and GMB general union hope they can persuade ministers to upgrade the Government's "modest" proposals on industrial training and instead to give legal backing to their plans for a new training levy. The Government is commit-

ted to a new initiative on industrial training by setting up individual learning accounts (ILAs), under which the Government will fund one million people with one-off lump sum training subsidies of £150, provided the individuals contribute £25.

Before the election, Labour leaders made clear they wanted to scrap old Labour commitments to bring back a training levy on employers, though TGWU and GMB leaders believe they still have support from John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, for a statutory training levy if the Government's voluntary approach proves insufficient to persuade

more companies to invest in training. They insisted yesterday in launching their own new proposals on industrial training that they welcomed Labour's plans, though they were sceptical about the likelihood of their effectiveness, arguing that "we are seriously concerned that the policy measures envisaged by the Labour Party may be too modest to meet the training challenge represented by the UK skills gap". The unions said that British industry was based on a few companies training and others poaching. They said they wanted to "make the poacher pay".

The unions' main proposals include:

- An obligation on employers who do not spend the equivalent of 2 per cent of their payroll on training to do so. John Edmonds, GMB general secretary, said this was the absolute minimum for employers — the "entry point" for UK firms if they wanted to be world-class companies. Employers would be required to release their employees for training purposes.
- A comprehensive skills training scheme, not just the Government's New Deal programme for the young and long-term unemployed.
- All employees to be entitled to at least five days' training per year.

IBM breaks through with copper in microchips

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

IBM, the world's biggest computer manufacturer, has made an important technological breakthrough, pioneering the use of copper instead of aluminium in microchips.

The announcement boosted IBM's share price 5 per cent on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday and was hailed by industry analysts as the most significant development in information technology in recent years.

Copper is a better conductor than aluminium, which has been used since the birth of computer technology, making microchips more powerful and faster. It could also cut manufacturer's costs by 30 per cent. IBM said computers with copper chips will be on the market early next year.

All leading chip manufacturers have been seeking a way to overcome technical problems with attaching the copper to the silicon in the chips.

Wall Street analysts said that the already depressed chip market is likely to be hit further. The semiconductor sector is presently recovering from a 75 per cent drop in prices. One analyst said: "While it's great news for IBM, this couldn't have come at a worse time for semiconductor. The industry has just about shaken off the chill. We

don't really know how soon copper will get into mainstream machines but buyers will not want to be caught out with out of date stock."

Copper and aluminium prices could also be affected by IBM's breakthrough. But there was no immediate reaction to the announcement on Comex, the commodity exchange in New York.

John Kelly, vice-president for technology at IBM, said: "Aluminium was becoming a real wall and by breaking through, this opens up a capability for the next decade."

Bryan Lewis, analyst at Dataquest in California, said: "This is critical technology and IBM appears to be further along than anybody else by at least a year. This technology will eventually apply across a broad range of products."

The copper will be used to wire up the millions of transistors inside a chip. IBM said processing time could be cut down by up to 40 per cent. The new chips will also require less electricity because of copper's superior conductivity, allowing laptop batteries to run longer.

IBM will retail the new chip inside its own computers and as components for other manufacturers. Production will move to a plant in Vermont by the end of this year.



Mike Handley, managing director of McBride, saw profits bounce back from £20.7 million to £29.1 million

Share boost for McBride chief

LORD Sheppard of Didge-mere, the former chairman of Grand Metropolitan, is showing a £200,000 profit on his well-timed purchases of shares in McBride, the company he chairs that makes washing powder (Paul Durman writes).

As McBride's shares slid to a low of 116½p between March and June, he bought 500,000. The shares have since recovered to 170p, earning him a profit of over £200,000.

McBride pre-tax profits were £29.1 million (£20.7 million). A final dividend of 4.65p, payable November 21, takes the total payout to 7p (6.7p).

Temps, page 28

CBI says Britain could add £60bn to production

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN could add £60 billion to its overall output if the UK's manufacturing industry matched the productivity performance of economic rivals, according to the CBI.

The call for an acceleration of productivity in Britain will come from the Confederation of British Industry today when Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, sets out the Government's backing for manufacturing industry in a speech to business leaders.

The speech will follow the

first meeting of the Government's competitiveness advisory forum, the largely business-based body set up by ministers to offer proposals to improve the performance of UK companies.

The CBI gives warning that "the evidence of the last two years indicates that overall UK performance improvements have slowed at a time when a number of our major competitors are making considerable strides in renewing their own restructuring efforts". The CBI is calling for a new acceleration of effort to improve performance.

In particular, it says that if British manufacturing companies can adopt the best practices of their counterparts in countries like the USA and Japan, even securing only their average levels of productivity performance, then UK gross domestic product would rise by about £60 billion.

Commentary, page 27

China ready to cut technology tariffs and reform banks

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

ZHU RONGJI, China's vice-premier, excited an audience of businessmen yesterday by stating that China would soon reduce tariffs on technology imported for foreign business, and announcing that in November a national conference would speed the reform of the country's banking system.

Mr Zhu, who is expected to succeed Premier Li Peng next year, told the huge audience in Hong Kong for the World Bank and International Monetary Fund meetings that China would introduce "certain policy incentives towards the import of equipment needed for foreign-invested projects". Mr Zhu did not specify when this relaxation would occur and he stipulated the new exemptions "must first of all conform to the industrial policies of China and bring in new technology".

The vice-premier also said that China's central and com-

mercial banking systems must be strengthened. He would convene a November meeting on how to modernise banks, and he invited the world's bankers to open offices in China.

Several times Mr Zhu said it was "unfair" for China not to be admitted to the World Trade Organisation.

Asked if he agreed that Hong Kong should continue to peg its currency to the US dollar, Mr Zhu said: "It has worked very well for 13 years." He was also asked if China would use some of Hong Kong's huge reserves for economic activity abroad. He replied that it would be a violation of "one country, two systems".

Introducing the vice-premier, James Wolfensohn, the World Bank President referred to his "enormous gratification that China has done all the things we wanted".

Ringitt slumps to 26-year low

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

MALAYSIAN financial markets went into freefall yesterday as investors nervously responded to the warning from the country's Prime Minister that he wanted to ban currency trading.

The Malaysian currency, the ringgit, fell to a 26-year low against the dollar of 3.10. The ringgit has already lost more than 20 per cent of its value this year and traders believe it could head towards 3.20 in the coming week.

The Malaysian stock exchange, which has fallen by more than 40 per cent this year, also fell a further 4.3 per cent in trading yesterday.

Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian Prime Minister, told delegates at the IMF on Sunday that currency trading was "immoral" and specula-

tion "should be stopped". His comments were derided as "not worthy of serious consideration" by George Soros, the billionaire financier who has been at the centre of a furious row with Dr Mahathir over the role of currency speculators in the Asian financial crisis.

Even the intervention of Anwar Ibrahim, Malaysia's finance minister, failed to calm the markets. Mr Anwar claimed the Prime Minister had no intention of banning currency trading but simply wanted to oppose further liberalisation measures in international financial markets. But traders said Mr Anwar's statement highlighted policy divisions between the Malaysian Government's two most senior members.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Interim profits at Ibstock soar to £8.5m

IBSTOCK, the brick-maker in which New Zealand's Brierley Investments has built up a 29.9 per cent stake, reported a rise in interim pre-tax profits from £2.4 million to £8.5 million yesterday. Turnover in the six months to June 30 was £155 million, 34 per cent up on the same period last year. Ibstock, which bought Redland's brick operation last year, has a 30 per cent share of UK brick sales.

Operating profits from UK building materials leapt from £5.2 million to £10 million. In the US, they rose from £500,000 to £3.2 million. Losses from its forest-products division were £1 million (£1.3 million loss). Philip Mengel, chief executive, said trading will be stronger in the second half. The sale of the company's 56 per cent stake in Cairna, the Portuguese eucalyptus pulp business, was not imminent, although it was earmarked for disposal. Brierley's interest was as a long-term investor, he said. An interim dividend of 0.75p, unchanged from 1996, will be paid on December 1.

EU pressure for BA

KAREL VAN MIERT, European competition commissioner, insisted yesterday that British Airways and American Airlines would have to divest up to 350 slots at Heathrow airport to win EU approval for their transatlantic alliance. Mr van Miert, in London for talks with Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, said he was not into "horse trading" but the availability of any spare slots from BAA, Heathrow's operator, would be taken into consideration.

Workwear shares rise

SHARES in Alexandra Workwear, the clothing manufacturer, rose 15p to 94p after the company said its first-half results to August 16 were "well ahead" of expectations. The group said it continued to gain momentum from management initiatives. The first-half results, to be announced on October 8, take into account the £500,000 cost of terminating the lease on the group's offices at Newbridge, Edinburgh. An agreed 25-year lease with a new landlord will save £200,000 a year.

Business optimism 'dips'

BUSINESS optimism may have peaked and sales growth is beginning to slow, a survey published yesterday shows. The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants' quarterly economic survey reveals the number of companies feeling positive about the outlook for their businesses slipping for the first time this year, although it remains at a high level of 77 per cent. The number of respondents reporting increased sales fell from 68 per cent to 62 per cent — the lowest this year.

Betacom chief leaves

NORMAN BECKER, chief executive of Betacom, is leaving the electronics company. His departure follows the appointment of Alan Sugar as executive chairman of the group after the break-up of Mr Sugar's Amstrad empire. This left Mr Sugar with 23.5 per cent of Betacom's shares, while Betacom purchased the consumer electronics interests of Amstrad. Anthony Sethill, a long-time associate of Mr Sugar, has become commercial director of Betacom.

GE buys gas subsidiary

GENERAL ELECTRIC of the US has agreed to buy the gas turbine division of Stewart & Stevenson Services for \$600 million (£374 million) cash. GE said the deal will expand its reach in the oil and gas industries. The subsidiary is being purchased by GE Power Systems, a division of GE. Stewart & Stevenson Gas Turbine Division, based in Houston, Texas, packages gas turbines for electrical power generation and operates power plants and offshore oil platforms.

Menvier-Swain slides

SHARES of Menvier-Swain Group fell 61p to 217p after the emergency lighting and safety systems company gave warning of a fall in first-half profits. Tony McCann, chairman, told the annual meeting trading conditions in August and September were difficult. This was "particularly apparent in the UK security sector". He also blamed the impact of the strong pound. Manufacturing operations were being restructured, giving rise to an £800,000 charge.

Peptide vaccine trials

PEPTIDE THERAPEUTICS, the biotechnology company that has licensed its allergy vaccine to SmithKline Beecham in a £30 million deal, has begun phase two clinical trials of an oral typhoid vaccine and a treatment for rheumatoid arthritis. The £2.4 million licence fee from the drugs group was the main source of Peptide's £2.5 million of first-half turnover. Research and development spending rose to £5.4 million (£2.1 million), producing a pre-tax loss of £2.7 million (£1.8 million loss).

Swan Hill in black

SWAN HILL, the housing and commercial property company, reported pre-tax profits of £9.3 million for the six months to June 30 (£1.8 million loss), inflated by a £7 million exceptional profit on the disposal of its construction activities. Turnover from continuing operations rose to £43.7 million (£37.4 million). Profits before tax for continuing operations doubled from £1.1 million to £2.3 million. An interim dividend of 1.1p (1p) will be paid on December 5.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Buy	Sell	Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.53	2.16	Malta	0.657	0.608
Austria Sch	21.54	19.58	Netherlands Gld	2.424	3.158
Belgium Fr	67.46	57.48	New Zealand \$	2.68	2.45
Canada \$	2.365	2.187	Norway Kr	12.27	11.28
Cyprus Cyp	0.891	0.820	Portugal Esc	304.08	282.00
Denmark Kr	11.52	10.83	Spain Ps	166.39	153.00
Finland Mark	9.12	8.57	S. Africa Rd	8.28	7.30
France Fr	10.11	9.53	Sweden Kr	283.79	265.00
Germany DM	3.04	2.79	Switzerland Fr	2.51	2.29
Greece Dr	449	419	Turkey Lira	286.48	269.00
Hong Kong \$	13.28	12.05	USA \$	1.712	1.588
Iceland P	1.15	1.05			
Ireland P	1.15	1.05			
Israel Sh	5.85	5.30			
Italy Lira	2077	1932			
Japan Yen	211.03	193.50			

Morgan Grenfell Asset Management Limited European Funds

Deutsche Bank AG gives notice to unit and shareholders of the cancellation of the two Agreements entered into on September 13th, 1996, between Deutsche Bank AG and Morgan Grenfell Unit Trust Managers Limited, and between Deutsche Bank AG and Morgan Grenfell Asset Management Limited. In the Agreements Deutsche Bank AG agreed to manage the Morgan Grenfell European Growth Fund and the Morgan Grenfell European Capital Growth Fund to maintain liquidity in those funds. Deutsche Bank AG, Morgan Grenfell Asset Management Limited are pleased to announce that there is no longer a need for the Agreements as the funds have been trading normally for a considerable period of time and that the Agreements will be cancelled with effect from October 8th, 1997.

September 22nd, 1997

Deutsche Bank AG

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French
price ra
Telecom

ICI share
on £146m

Granada sell
to manager

A fresh pint at the Rising Sun



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

In many a British hostelry, karaoke has driven out darts and dominoes as the chosen accompaniment to an evening's drinking. So perhaps one should not be too surprised when a Japanese bank becomes the country's biggest pub landlord.

But Nomura's emergence as the owner of what was the Innrepreneur estate has left many in the City puzzled. Paying £1.2 billion for a motley collection of pubs and some very unhappy, not to say litigious, tenants, does not fit with conventional ideas of sober investment practice.

Yet the deal is only the latest puzzle in a saga which has at times taken corporate obfuscation to new levels. Innrepreneur started out as a brave joint venture between two major companies, Grand Metropolitan and Courage. It deteriorated into a commercial horror story, in which macho management and financially naive publicans combined to ruin hundreds of lives.

For GrandMet and the Australian brewer, Foster's, which took over the Courage share of the company, the overriding wish for some time has been to extricate themselves from the mess at the least possible cost. The manoeuvres towards this end have been so convoluted as to leave spectators bewildered, drawing sketch maps to try to figure out quite what was going on, as pubs were parcelled

up into new companies with mystery owners.

Then, suddenly, it is as if a magic wand has been waved. Here is Nomura prepared to relieve the two shareholders of the entire problem, and at an extraordinarily generous price. There are to be no outstanding liabilities for the host of legal actions still pending; no guarantees over leases — just a neat clean deal at a price that comes respectably close to book value. Even insiders could be heard exclaiming their astonishment over GrandMet's good fortune.

They would be only too aware that the dismal trading picture at Innrepreneur was making the declared plans to float the company look like wishful thinking. But Nomura has clearly been able to look beyond the losses and the legal battles to see a bright future for the pubs. It may be that this will also mean a brighter outlook for the company's tenants.

After all, when Nomura took on its first tranche of pubs from Innrepreneur, under the Phoenix banner, it remained coy about the ultimate ownership of the business. Careful searches revealed

that a Jersey-based charity, the Publicans Benevolent Society, was a minor shareholder through a series of trusts.

At the time, some beleaguered publicans may have thought this a somewhat sick City joke. Now we are left to wonder why the Japanese bank should appear to be operating a GrandMet benevolent society.

Tunnel stance is all about posture

The finances of Eurotunnel are an art rather than a science. On the plus side, the first six months of this year saw the owner of the world's most expensive void make an operating profit for the first time, and the company is likely to exceed its forecasts for this year. On the minus side, this result was

achieved during a boom in cross-Channel holiday traffic, as Brits rushed to France to enjoy cheap wine and cheese. There is the small matter of £52 million of insurance payments because of the fire last November. And then there is all the interest that Eurotunnel is not paying to the banks, which would turn a modest operating profit into a stunning £323 million loss. But thinking positively, it is odds on that the latest debt restructuring will go through, cutting interest payments to a mere 222 per cent of free cash flow. And a deal with the British and French Governments to secure a 34-year extension to Eurotunnel's operating licence will be secured by the end of November.

How can Eurotunnel be so confident that the Governments will agree, given the noises made by the Department of Transport?

Because the DoT's public posturing — about wanting more than the 25 per cent profits share that Eurotunnel is offering during the 34-year extension and forcing Eurotunnel to cut its freight prices — is little more than that. With the French Government on its side, Eurotunnel knows it holds most of the aces. It will make some concessions to the DoT, more on the profit share than the freight prices, and the deal will be presented as a victory for both sides.

More worrying for Eurotunnel are its tourist traffic figures for July and August, which show a fall of 2.6 per cent and 6 per cent respectively on 1996. Eurotunnel argues the fall was because of an intense price war among the ferry companies, triggered by the uncertainty caused by the failure of either Margaret Beckett or Karel van Miert to decide what to do

about P&O and Stena. Eurotunnel is launching a heavy marketing campaign to arrest this decline. This had better succeed. Because Eurotunnel promised that its current refinancing would be its last. And it will be — whether it succeeds or not.

Power to the people not the Pool

The joys of competition in electricity suffer an inherent limitation. There is no obvious mug to pay for them. Consumers benefit from lower up-to-date market prices for gas because shareholders of the defunct British Gas were landed with the high-price, long-term supply contracts signed in monopoly days and big cuts in transmission charges.

There are some dodgy electricity contracts too but competition is all too likely to become a zero-sum game. Benefits to some will be offset by higher prices for others and competitive pressure on profit margins offset by higher administrative costs. Multi-site commercial users

are again crying foul over higher charges levied by the opaque Pool Executive, the nearest electricity has to a stock exchange. Big users also complain that tender prices for supply contracts are rising when pool prices have been falling, a paradox long familiar in any household buying goods and services.

The Pool Executive needs reform if competition is to work. There is a suspicion that it is still controlled by those who have no interest in the wider free market being exciting. But reforming the pool would not do the trick alone.

Thus far, the old generators have played the market deftly. They should continue to do so, unless consumers big and small gain direct access to market pricing at modest cost, as power revolutionaries dreamed.

Balance of payments

AN extra £60 billion for the national coffers would be appreciated, so Mrs Beckett is right to try to encourage industry to adopt the best practices of our international competitors. This is an idea that remuneration consultants should also leap aboard. When devising their schemes for rewarding executives, perhaps an element of benchmarking in relation to overseas rivals would give an extra lift to those who really deserve their bonuses.

French set share price range for Telecom float

FROM ADAM SAGE
IN PARIS

THE French Government yesterday launched what is likely to be the country's biggest privatisation when it set the price range for shares in France Telecom at between Fr170 and Fr190.

The share offer values France Telecom at up to Fr190 billion (about £19 billion). The sale should raise up to Fr39 billion for the French state.

Analysts said the price was sufficiently attractive to win popular backing for the flotation of a 20 per cent stake.

The company's 165,000 staff are being offered shares equivalent to just over 2 per cent of the equity.

France Telecom has also begun talks with Deutsche Telekom, its German counterpart, over a share swap that could involve up to 10 per cent of the equity.



Strauss-Kahn: reserve stakes

The swap is likely to be completed in the second half of next year.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French Finance Minister, said that he would reserve 115 million shares for institutional

investors as well as setting aside 75 million shares for the French public.

But if the sale was much over-subscribed, 10 per cent of the shares destined for institutional investors would be made available to small shareholders, he added.

The public will benefit from a five franc reduction, with the price range set yesterday at between Fr165 and Fr185, prompting Michel Bon, France Telecom's chairman, to predict that two million people would buy shares.

That would make the sale not only the most popular but also the most lucrative in French history. The country's biggest privatisation to date was the sale of Elf Aquitaine, the oil company, which raised Fr35.7 billion in 1994.

The final share price will be fixed on October 6, and the company will be floated on the stock markets in Paris and New York two weeks later.

VCI dips despite better sales in the US

By RAYMOND SNOOPY
MEDIA EDITOR

VCI, the video publishing company chaired by Michael Grade, the former chief executive of Channel 4, suffered a drop in pre-tax profits in the six months to June despite a 21 per cent increase in revenue.

The rise in revenues to £44.9 million (£37 million) was largely attributable

Mr Grade said, to sales of videos in the US. The cost of distribution there, together with a quieter UK market, hit operating margins.

Pre-tax profit for the period fell to £1.184 million compared with £1.3 million in the same period in 1996.

VCI, which plans to launch three leading feature films on video, *Fever Pitch*, *Brassed Off* and *Secrets and Lies*, as part of its autumn and

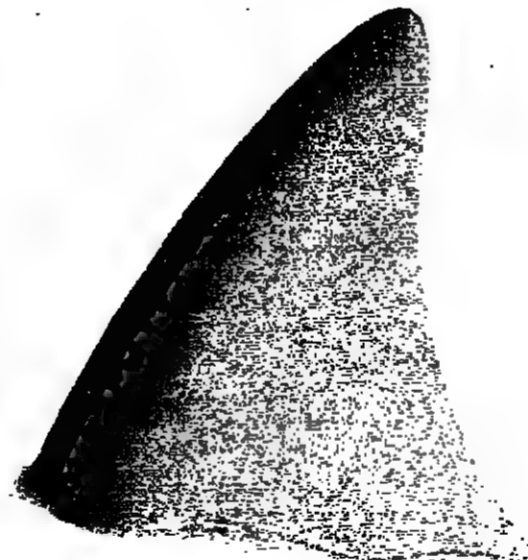
Christmas schedule, makes most of its profits in the second half of the year. In the year to December 1996, for instance, the company made pre-tax profits of just over £9 million.

Steve Ayres, chief executive, said yesterday that the first half had been in line with expectations and promised that the "product line-up for the autumn and Christmas trading period should be our strongest ever". Earn-

ings per share dropped from 2.8p to 2.4p but the dividend is rising from 2.3p to 2.4p. Despite the pressure on margins VCI said it had maintained its share of the UK video market.

The company said it had made significant additions to its rights portfolio through agreements with Film Four and Philadelphia International and the acquisition of the Ace Records catalogue.

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CABLE & WIRELESS

ICI shares rise on £146m sale

By GEORGE SIVELL

ICI yesterday passed the £3 billion disposal target set at the time of the Unilever specialty chemicals deal.

The chemicals company sold its Canadian-based forest products group to Pioneer Companies of Texas for £146 million. ICI expects to make an exceptional gain of £100 million on the sale and its shares rose 5½p to 99½p.

ICI said work continued on the rest of the disposal programme, which has seen the sale of the polyester and titanium dioxide businesses to Du Pont, the sale of the ICI Australia stake, and the sale of property worth more than £120 million.

ICI's forest products group manufactures and sells chlor-alkali products and other industrial chemicals used in the papermaking industry, principally in Eastern Canada and the eastern United States. The business is based in Montreal and operates fac-

'Too soon' for payout says Alexon

By CHRIS AYRES

ALEXON, the women's fashion retailer, has again passed payment of an interim dividend in spite of announcing another set of financial results that exceeded expectations.

The company, which has not paid a dividend since 1992, lifted pre-tax profits 85 per cent in the half year to July 26, to £5.6 million (£3 million). Like-for-like sales were up 7.2 per cent. Overall turnover rose 9 per cent to £62 million (£57 million). Earnings were 7.52p (4.16p) a share.

John Osborn, who joined Alexon as chief executive in 1993 and has overseen the group's recovery, said it was too soon to return to the dividend list. He expects payments to resume next year.

Alexon, which has 80 shops and 670 concessions in Europe, plans to expand its Kaliko and Ann Harvey outlets. Its more established brands, Alexon, Eastex and Dash, are to continue their expansion.

Granada sells division to managers for £89m

By JON ASHWORTH

GRANADA, the UK leisure and television group, has sold its computer services division to the management for £89 million in a deal backed by CVC Capital Partners.

The sale of Granada Computer Services International (GCSI), which provides emergency computer back-up and technical skills to companies including J Sainsbury and The Rover Group, is part of a programme of disposals by Granada. The consideration is in addition to an £8 million intercompany dividend paid by GCSI to Granada immediately before disposal. Charles Allen, Granada chief executive, said: "This disposal is earnings enhancing and in



Allen: deal fits with policy

line with our policy of concentrating on our media and hotels and catering businesses."

GCSI provides computer

back-up services to companies that suffer bomb or fire damage. The company has 53 offices in 11 countries, including France, Germany and the UK, and employs more than 1,700 people. It made an operating profit of £8.7 million in the year to September 30, 1996, on turnover of £133.5 million.

Granada wrote down the value of GCSI's assets by £160 million in March 1997, leaving net assets of £74 million, including £17 million in cash. It said the disposal represented a £15 million premium to net asset value. The shares rose 25½p to close at 84½p.

CVC was formed in 1981 as the European private equity arm of Citicorp, the US investment bank.

New chapter needed in debt relief story

Make no mistake. The international debt-relief initiative, which Gordon Brown last week commanded as his own, is going nowhere at a snail's pace. If it were not for the fact that it is the only game in town for a clutch of the world's most poverty-stricken countries, it should be allowed to die a quiet death — if that kind of language is appropriate given the United Nations' estimate that 21 million children will die by the millennium if debt relief isn't accelerated.

There is virtually nothing right with the Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) initiative. The usual arguments about its slowness, its tough eligibility criteria and even tougher conditionalities have all been repeated until campaigners are blue in the face. All are serious points. But the fact remains that, even if Mr. Brown managed to persuade Germany, Japan, Italy and America — four out of the seven richest countries in

the world — to back the initiative instead of obstructing it, to loosen rather than tighten eligibility criteria, this would still not lead to debt sustainability for the 40 or so poorest countries in the world. The World Bank has admitted as much.

The whole structure of the HIPC initiative is fundamentally wrong. It depends on the financial support, leadership and, ultimately, the say-so of the International Monetary Fund. Yet the IMF is not only one of the main creditors, but is controlled by a majority of creditors. Creditors tend not to recognise nifty-pantry moral arguments about poor people, nor the sensible long-term logic that the world economy benefits if there are more healthy economies; nor even the pragmatic point that they

are never going to be repaid anyway.

Surely creditors at least have the right to some interest payments? Surely it would be moral hazard to let debtors off scot-free? Up to a point, but there are counter-arguments. One is that some of the countries most opposed to the HIPC initiative have been treated extremely generously in the past. After the Second World War Germany could not service its debts. A conference was convened in London in 1952 to deal with the problem. During the meeting 50 per cent of Germany's pre and postwar debt was cancelled. Debt service on the rest never rose above 5 per cent of net exports and almost all of Germany's debts were repaid by 1960. Is it not then rather mean

that Germany is refusing to support an initiative that would still require poor countries to pay debt service equivalent to 20 per cent of their exports?

Another is that creditors cannot always argue that they are disinterested parties in the build-up of debt. A large amount of debt can be traced back to lending by the

great western military powers to developing countries for military assistance in their own geopolitical plans. Plenty of young Africans, now living in fragile democracies, are still servicing the debts of long-gone dictators. And then there are debts that have resulted quite simply from bad commercial decisions by national lenders or multilateral financial institutions like the IMF.

Kunibert Raffer, of the Department of Economics at the University of Vienna, believes that the time has come for an international insolvency mechanism to deal with the debt problem, replacing the far from disinterested IMF and Paris Club creditors with independent arbitrators. As he puts it: "Allowing creditors to be judge, jury, interested party and expert

all in one contradicts not only all the most basic principles of fairness and of the rule of law, but also allows creditors to delay relief and to move the goalposts at will." Just so.

Professor Raffer advocates adapting America's Chapter 9 insolvency process, which is used when municipalities become insolvent, for international use. It is notable for protecting the debtor's "governmental powers" and individuals affected by the plan as well as the interests of creditors. Chapter 9 does not expect the municipality to stop providing basic social services essential to the health, safety and welfare of its inhabitants to pay its creditors.

International arbitration of this kind would, of course, mean that the IMF and donor countries may



JANET BUSH

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Inntrepreneur deal does little to cut ties with troubled past

Dominic Walsh maps the complex background to the creation of one of Britain's biggest pub estates

The birth yesterday of Britain's biggest independent pub group left Carol Hall, licensee of the Crooked Spire in Chesterfield, feeling rather numb. Mrs Hall, who has run the town-centre pub for the past 15 years, is one of the hundreds of Inntrepreneur tenants who have fought a legal battle against the pub group after suffering a catastrophic combination of high rents and high beer prices in the six years since Inntrepreneur was formed.

Although Inntrepreneur's absorption by the Nomura investment banking empire will not affect any of the outstanding legal cases, for Mrs Hall time has already run out. Having seen her right to legal aid disappear, Mrs Hall has thrown in the towel and will shortly be vacating the premises.

"I've put every penny I had into this pub," she said yesterday. "I had a £150,000 house, but I was forced to take out second mortgages and bank loans, but I still couldn't pay the rent. Now I've got absolutely no assets whatsoever. I've got four children to support, and I don't know what I'm going to do."

Like so many others, Mrs Hall's problems began when the Courage lease she had on the Crooked Spire was converted into a 20-year Inntrepreneur tenancy, which she claims she had no option but to sign. As a result her annual rent of £17,000, became a £44,000-a-year full repair lease, whereby she was forced to assume responsibility for the maintenance of the property.

"Mine is the highest rent of any pub in the area," she said. "The next highest is £8,000

less, but I don't take any more than anyone else. That can't be right, can it? If the turnover could support it I'd willingly have paid the lease. The rent alone is impossible to meet, and on top of that you've got the beer prices which are far higher than you can buy locally." She claimed she was having to pay £20 for a crate of 24 bottles of beer that can be bought from a local wholesaler for just £14.50.

According to Martin Moore, the former licensee who heads the action group set up to co-ordinate legal action against Inntrepreneur, the reason so many were persuaded to take on the leases was because of the promise that they would be freed from the beer tie in March 1998.

When the original 8,000-strong Inntrepreneur estate was stitched together as a joint venture by Grand Metropolitan and Foster's Brewing Group in 1991, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission decided it would harm competition unless the pubs were eventually freed of the tie under which there is an obligation to buy beer from the nominated supplier — in this case Courage. Lord Sheppard, then head of GrandMet, agreed to remove the tie in two tranches. The first stage took place, as agreed in 1992, and two years ago 1,800 of those pubs were packaged together and sold to Nomura's Phoenix Inns group.

The second tranche were to have been freed from their tie in March next year, but in February the Office of Fair Trading shocked licensees by revoking the earlier undertaking. GrandMet had argued that the decision by Foster's to sell Courage to Scottish &



Mike Foster is expected to take a tough stance with S&N

Newcastle in 1995 meant that Inntrepreneur no longer had any ties with beer production, and should not therefore be subject to the terms of the Beer Orders.

It also argued that the pub market had changed out of all recognition since the infamous Beer Orders were passed, creating a much more competitive marketplace. It further argued that its own estate had been much reduced by the sale of Phoenix Inns and a subsequent deal to offload a further

1,410 pubs to Nomura under the Spring Inns banner.

Mr Moore is rather more blunt in his assessment of how Inntrepreneur achieved this volte-face. "The sophisticated pub-owning companies and their bosses are running rings around fairly junior civil servants to the detriment of thousands of licensed retailers." Legal action challenging the OFT's decision continues unabated.

That said, to secure the confirmation of the tie, Inntrepre-



Cumberland: runs Spring



Turner: runs Phoenix

neur has had to come up with a new working arrangement with its licensees called Retail-Link. This scheme, to which more than 60 per cent of tenants have put their names, gives tenants discounts of at least £30 a barrel.

For Inntrepreneur this means a short-term pain in the form of revenue, but come next March, when its beer supply deal with Scottish & Newcastle expires, it will be in a position to flex its buying muscle and negotiate a cheap-

er deal. Sources indicate that Mike Foster, chief executive of Inntrepreneur, will be taking an aggressive negotiating stance with S&N to make sure that he gets the best terms in the industry.

Although the whiff of legal action has never been far from Inntrepreneur's door, its troubled history has been compounded by growing concerns over its tangled ownership structure. This has been particularly pertinent given that regulatory deliberations in Brussels and London have focused largely on the level of Inntrepreneur's pub ownership. The two biggest disposals, to Phoenix Inns and Spring Inns, are a case in point.

In both instances the pubs were first effectively transferred to stand-alone vehicles that were set up specifically to take the pubs out of Inntrepreneur. In the case of Phoenix, run by James Turner, the 1,750 pubs were subsequently sold on to Nomura. Spring was set up in May last year as a holding company for 1,400 pubs, pending a sale to a third party. Again, Nomura emerged as the bidder, although completion of a deal was held up until yesterday when the Japanese bank took on not only Spring, but also Inntrepreneur — effectively putting back together a large chunk of the original, much bigger Inntrepreneur.

The cynics were out in force to claim that yesterday's deal changes very little, as the three pub groupings had never really been separated. They pointed out that Inntrepreneur had retained tie to the Phoenix and Spring properties as well as effectively continuing to manage them. For example, Barry Cumberland, chief executive of Spring, has been running the company from the offices of Inntrepreneur since the deal was announced. It is that sort of lack of transparency that has made the whole legal process surrounding Inntrepreneur such a mess.

But licensees remain sceptical that the consolidation of Spring, Phoenix and Inntrepreneur under the ownership of Nomura will ultimately benefit them. Carol Hall of the Crooked Spire believes that yesterday's deal does nothing to address the problems that have beset Inntrepreneur. "The problem is that Inntrepreneur is a property company, not a brewer. The people who run it are not real people, they're financiers and businessmen. How can they understand the trade?"

BUSINESS LETTERS

Two mayors in London set to invite confusion and a 'hospitality war'

From Mr Malcolm J. Matson

Sir, Your Commentary (September 12) on the changes that the Corporation of London now proposes to make suggests that I may go down in history as the last person in this country to be blackballed after winning at the ballot box in a public election. John Wilkes will rejoice from his grave at this news but as so often with the Corporation, it is "too little too late".

After all, it was 1995 when I successfully challenged the legality of the Corporation's behaviour in the Court of Appeal. But this is 1997 and the world has moved on. We have a New Labour Government with plans to "restore democratic city-wide Government in London" as set out in the recently published Green Paper. These plans will be doomed if the Corporation is allowed to persist in anything like the manner it now seems to be contriving.

To take just one obvious example, when some overseas prime minister or president is invited to the United Kingdom

on a future state visit, are they to dine with the Lord Mayor or the directly elected Lord Archer (assuming he has held off the challenge from Lord Livingstone or Brent)? Or both? Will there be a "hospitality war" in London as the Corporation's private funds vie with the new Greater London Authority's Treasury-limited budget to impress the rest of the world?

Is confusion to prevail around the world as to who really represents London? The current Lord Mayor certainly thinks so. In June, speaking of the proposed Greater London Authority, he said: "... in order to avoid possible confusion, it would clearly be preferable for whoever is chosen to the position of its leader to be called something other than Mayor". Maybe you could run a competition among your readers to find a new title that will adequately explain to the rest of the world such a *hydra* approach to civic government in Britain's capital.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM J. MATSON,
9 The Postern, EC2.

Licensing procedures may undermine V&A

From Mr Edward Pond

Sir, The Victoria and Albert Museum is to be applauded for using its resources to create much-needed extra revenue. (Business booms at the V&A, September 15), but, in licensing items from its archives, the museum does a disservice to us all, for its collections should be available to us all without specific restriction. More to the point is the fact that the vast majority of items in its collections have been unconditionally donated.

I have been involved in donating manufacturer's collections of wallpaper, penance, Penance, Cornwall.

presumed understanding that they would be available for study and use. It was never envisaged that specific items might be licensed to possible competitors. The museum would be well advised to look to the details of its licensing procedures or it will find that collectors will not be so ready to donate their archival material in future.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD POND,
Past president,
Chartered Society
of Designers,
John Slackhouse Apartment,
Aston, Leeds,
Rousdon,
Penzance,
Cornwall.

Nomura rises rapidly to prominence

NOMURA International, based in London, has rapidly emerged as a key player in principal finance — underwriting transactions and financing them by issuing securities based on the underlying assets.

Set up in December 1994, Nomura's Principal Finance Group (PFG), led by Guy Hands, managing director,

has completed deals worth more than £8.5 billion.

The first big deal was the Phoenix Inns acquisition of April 1995, which saw Nomura take on 1,801 pubs from Grand Metropolitan and Foster's, shadowing the Inntrepreneur deal. James Turner, one of the PFG team, was seconded to Phoenix as chief executive.

In November 1995, Nomura put up £696 million to buy Angel Train Contracts, one of three rolling stock leasing companies sold by the government under rail privatisation. Nomura was part of the GRS consortium which bought Angel, netting it a third of Britain's trains.

Last September Nomura took a hand in the biggest

conveyancing of residential real estate in British history: the £166 billion purchase of 57,000 service family homes from the Ministry of Defence. Nomura underwrote the transaction for what became Annington Homes. The deal was financed by four UK banks: Abbey National, Hambros, Midland, and the Royal Bank of Scotland. Annington

Homes is now one of the UK's biggest residential landlords. A month later the firm arranged the £1.37 billion management buyout of AT&T Capital, America's third-largest leasing company. It was also behind Glenagles Funding, a £281 million issue of floating rate notes in 1995.

JON ASHWORTH

Trial and error

ARCHIE NORMAN's star is rising among Conservatives as fast as William Hague's is sinking, say the political pundits. Mr Norman has a big fan in the City too, after the weekend test of the Stock Exchange's new order-driven system. One dealer punched in an order for two billion shares in Asda. This mistake is quite difficult to make, because the new computerised dealing has a check-queuing dealers to verify their instructions — like that little box that comes up on your computer and says,

"Do you REALLY want to delete everything in the system?"

The trial was the third in six dress rehearsals. The last is on October 11, and the whole thing goes live nine days later. Under the new regime, a dealer making such a silly mistake is bound by it, or at least has to go cap-in-hand to any other market-makers who have taken him up to ask for the deal to be reversed. I foresee lots of fun when, inevitably, the wrong price is punched in by mistake.

THE JAPANESE running English pubs? A bunch of sushi eaters in charge of our biggest chain of traditional boozers? It is enough to make hardened pubgoers choke on their Australian lager, Chilean Char-donnay or microwaved lasagne.

Into touch

SOME disappointing news from the Reuters rugby sevens at Richmond Athletic Ground, taking place this Sunday with 32 teams drawn from various City institutions. Two of the most successful teams have pulled out. Cantor Fitzgerald, last year's winner, is one. Intercapital the other. The two have a long history of brutal



mass epidemic in the Square Mile between now and Sunday to give the Reuters team much chance. This is the tournament's 25th anniversary. Proceeds go to Sparks, the children's medical research charity, and it promises to be a great afternoon out.

OVERHEARD at the ultra-laissez-faire IMF meeting in Hong Kong: two officials wander through the press hospitality suite, and talk at the coffee on offer, unpaid for. "What an appalling distortion of the free market," says one. They are joking, surely. I ask my informant? Definitely not. "These guys are Moonies."

MARTIN WALLER

Play writes

FRESH from sending a collection of its modern British paintings to the Royal College of Art, on display from tomorrow, Barclays Bank has signed a deal to sponsor four new plays at that crucible of revolutionary modernism, the Royal Court Theatre. Barclays New Stages — Staging the New grew out of the bank's earlier support of new playwrights, a scheme that ran for six years. And what a collection of thigh-slappers Barclays is serving up.

First off is a new production of Ionesco's *The Chairs*, in which the "difficult" French dramatist has an elderly couple endlessly assembling a selection of chairs for a guest orator.



Three chairs for Briers

ALL CLEAR NOW?

burnt *n.* usu. derog. papers, documents (often prec. by what's all this: I'm not signing clause 2, para 4, sub.2.4.6 of this, etc.) for rapid trans.

affidavit *n.* 1 agreeable Welsh farmer 2 written statement produced in court which should be carefully drawn up.

paralegal *n.* 1 one who provides advice at great height (usu. 20,000 feet) 2 wordy legal document with many indented lines 3 a person trained in subsidiary legal matters.

case-law *n.* 1 the principle that a suitcase will always travel in an equal and opposite direction to the aircraft you're in 2 the law as established by the outcome of former cases.

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**FROM OLIVER AUGUST
IN NEW YORK**

The only competitor for investment that Britain has to fear is China. The Chinese economy is still only half the size of the UK's but China has disposed Britain from its position as the second-largest recipient of inward investment from around the world. The US is first.

Looking ahead: Dennis Webb said Beazer's market share had risen from 4.1 to 4.7 per cent and that he expected to make further gains

By CARL MORTISHED

slightly to 12.3 per cent (12.1 per cent) and the company does not believe that raw material price increases and skill shortages will threaten margins. Beazer's land bank now stands at 20,507 plots and the company intends to maintain a three-year supply with the exception of Charles Church where Beazer reckons a two-year landbank is adequate for the operation's lower volumes.

BY PAUL DURMAN

the acute hospital side of Libra's business. Libra was owned by 3i and CinVen and made an operating profit of £1.5 million last year.

Community's pre-tax profits were £14.4 million (£10.7 million) in the year to June 30. A final dividend of 7.6p, payable on November 28, lifts its total payout 15 per cent to 11.5p.

Strong cash flow helped Beazer to end the year with net funds at the year end of the year totalling £19 million. After the recent spate of deals, the company has no plans to buy housebuilders but Mr Webb said they would buy land provided it satisfied their gross margin requirement of 17.5 per cent. Beazer's earnings per share rose by 33 per cent to 15.62p and the company is raising the total dividend by 10 per cent to 6.6p.

Temps, page 28

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BY OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

He rejected criticism of the \$72.45 million (£45 million) purchase of American Filtrona, its US rival in cigarette filters, which will be completed this week. Mr Haggood said the extra \$1.50 that President Clinton seeks to impose on the price of a packet of cigarettes will not reduce US tobacco sales. He said: "Gordon Brown put an extra 19p — around 30 cents — on cigarettes this year and nobody noticed. There is no reason to switch to panic mode."

Fears over Bunzl's increased exposure to the US tobacco market grew with President Clinton's plan for staggered

Last week, Safer Smokes, an Atlanta company, announced plans for cigarettes made from lettuce. The Bravo brand will not contain any tobacco or nicotine. It is aimed at smokers who want to give up smoking.

Decan is in the process of acquiring Ingenia, a French computer services company, which operates in fields related to Decan's core business.

Results for the year ended 30th June, 1997

• Pre-tax profits	£11.83m	+12.5%
• Property portfolio value	£240.25m	+7.0%
• Dividend per Share	7.00p	+5.0%
• Net Asset Value per Share	182p	+13%

PROPERTY DEVELOPERS AND INVESTORS

"The dividend has increased every year for the past 30 years."

The Annual Report & Accounts will be circulated to Shareholders on 14th October, 1997.

RENTOKIL INITIAL, the business services company, is acquiring two UK security companies for £132 million. Sigma Group provides manned guarding and specialist security services in England and Wales, employing 1,700 people. Trojan Security, which is based in Scotland, employs 300 in its manned guarding operations. The two companies have a combined turnover of £27 million and earned pre-tax profits of £1.2 million in their last financial year. The acquisitions will be integrated with Rentokil Initial security.

LONDON & Overseas Freighters, the transport group, is to merge with Frontline, a Bermuda company. Frontline is expected to begin a cash tender offer for between 50.1 per cent and 90 per cent of LOF's outstanding ordinary shares on or about next Monday. The tender price will be \$1.591, net to the seller in cash, per LOF ordinary share. On completion, Frontline will take control of a majority of LOF's board of directors. Shareholders of the two companies will then vote on an amalgamation proposal. LOF's shares rose 3p to 96½p.

NTT, the Japanese telecommunications company, may acquire a 12.5 per cent interest in Teligent, a US wireless communications company led by Alex Mandl, a former president of AT&T. The proposed investment, at a cost of \$100 million (\$62 million), is seen as a significant step towards offering an independent phone service between Japan and America. Teligent, set up in 1996, plans to start call services using its proprietary radio technology in four large American cities, including New York, before the end of this year.

WPP GROUP, the advertising agency, yesterday confirmed that it will pay a maximum consideration of £15 million for Cockpit Holdings, the parent company of Buchanan Communications, the financial public relations company. There will be an initial payment of £4 million, with the balance related to profits earned up to the end of 2002, payable in WPP shares and loan notes. In 1996 WPP earned pre-tax profits of £26,000. Net asset were £103,000 at the last year end.

BRITISH AEROSPACE has won a **A\$22 million** (£10 million) contract to upgrade navigation avionics for the Royal Australian Air Force, Australia's Defence Department announced. It said the company would develop a navigation training suite and install a new ground-mapping radar for the RAAF's HS748 navigation training aircraft. Aircraft upgrade work is due to start in 1999 to coincide with installation of the ground-based synthetic navigation trainer at RAAF East Sale, in Victoria.

COMPCO, the property group, has agreed to acquire the freehold of the Wales National Ice Rink, Cardiff, from Celtic Leisure (Cymru) for £2.7 million cash. The rink is home to the Cardiff Devils, the British ice hockey super league champions. As part of the agreement, Compcio will lease back the property to Celtic Leisure until March 2000, and the Cardiff Devils will relocate to a new Welsh international sports village. The existing planning consent allows the property to be used for discotheque, casino, cinema or bingo use as well as sports.

CARD CLEAR, the supplier of card payment and fraud prevention services, reported a 32 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £800,996 for the six months to June 30 on sales revenues that rose 17 per cent to £3.1 million. Earnings were 0.76p a share (0.73p last time) and there is a maiden interim dividend of 0.1p a share. The company, whose chairman is Nigel Whitaker, provides fraud prevention service to more than 8,500 retail locations. In June the company signed a three-year agreement with Sainsbury Food Stores.

BEMROSE CORPORATION, the supplier of print and promotional products, reported pre-tax profits of £3 million for the six months to June 28, down from £3.9 million in the first half of the previous year. Profits were adversely affected by an exceptional charge of £1.5 million against relocation costs. Adjusted earnings were 7.11p a share, up from 6.85p. The interim dividend is increased 7.5 per cent to 5.75p. **Rodger Booth**, chief executive, said net debt was reduced by £8.2 million to £26.9 million.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 23 1997

Check the numbers on your Portfolio card and find your eight stocks in the Portfolio panel below. In the column provided next to your eight shares enter the share movements as published on this page. Ignore fractions; $\frac{1}{2}$ enters as 16 (the symbol $\frac{1}{2}$ means no change). After listing the price changes of your eight shares, add or subtract as appropriate to find your total which can be plus or minus. If your overall total matches exactly the points required for the daily dividend you win or, then, the \$2,000 daily prize.

[illegible]

Line	Commodity	Price	Unit	%
7	50/50 Acetate	364	-	1
8	30/70 Acetate	300	-	4.6
9	100% Polyester	1975	-	4.1
10	120 Lard	190	-	12.3
11	200 Lard	192	-	12.3
12	240 Lard	192	-	12.3
13	280 Lard	192	-	12.3
14	320 Lard	192	-	12.3
15	360 Lard	192	-	12.3
16	400 Lard	192	-	12.3
17	440 Lard	192	-	12.3
18	480 Lard	192	-	12.3
19	520 Lard	192	-	12.3
20	560 Lard	192	-	12.3
21	600 Lard	192	-	12.3
22	640 Lard	192	-	12.3
23	680 Lard	192	-	12.3
24	720 Lard	192	-	12.3
25	760 Lard	192	-	12.3
26	800 Lard	192	-	12.3
27	840 Lard	192	-	12.3
28	880 Lard	192	-	12.3
29	920 Lard	192	-	12.3
30	960 Lard	192	-	12.3
31	1000 Lard	192	-	12.3
32	1040 Lard	192	-	12.3
33	1080 Lard	192	-	12.3
34	1120 Lard	192	-	12.3
35	1160 Lard	192	-	12.3
36	1200 Lard	192	-	12.3
37	1240 Lard	192	-	12.3
38	1280 Lard	192	-	12.3
39	1320 Lard	192	-	12.3
40	1360 Lard	192	-	12.3
41	1400 Lard	192	-	12.3
42	1440 Lard	192	-	12.3
43	1480 Lard	192	-	12.3
44	1520 Lard	192	-	12.3
45	1560 Lard	192	-	12.3
46	1600 Lard	192	-	12.3
47	1640 Lard	192	-	12.3
48	1680 Lard	192	-	12.3
49	1720 Lard	192	-	12.3
50	1760 Lard	192	-	12.3
51	1800 Lard	192	-	12.3
52	1840 Lard	192	-	12.3
53	1880 Lard	192	-	12.3
54	1920 Lard	192	-	12.3
55	1960 Lard	192	-	12.3
56	2000 Lard	192	-	12.3
57	2040 Lard	192	-	12.3
58	2080 Lard	192	-	12.3
59	2120 Lard	192	-	12.3
60	2160 Lard	192	-	12.3
61	2200 Lard	192	-	12.3
62	2240 Lard	192	-	12.3
63	2280 Lard	192	-	12.3
64	2320 Lard	192	-	12.3
65	2360 Lard	192	-	12.3
66	2400 Lard	192	-	12.3
67	2440 Lard	192	-	12.3
68	2480 Lard	192	-	12.3
69	2520 Lard	192	-	12.3
70	2560 Lard	192	-	12.3
71	2600 Lard	192	-	12.3
72	2640 Lard	192	-	12.3
73	2680 Lard	192	-	12.3
74	2720 Lard	192	-	12.3
75	2760 Lard	192	-	12.3
76	2800 Lard	192	-	12.3
77	2840 Lard	192	-	12.3
78	2880 Lard	192	-	12.3
79	2920 Lard	192	-	12.3
80	2960 Lard	192	-	12.3
81	3000 Lard	192	-	12.3
82	3040 Lard	192	-	12.3
83	3080 Lard	192	-	12.3
84	3120 Lard	192	-	12.3
85				

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Passing
the buck

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LAW

● RUFF JUSTICE 35
● SILBER SPEAKS 40

'The Bar must attract the best'

Speaking out before she chairs this week's Bar conference, Cherie Booth, QC and part-time judge, talks to Frances Gibb

She is, of course, the Prime Minister's wife. But Cherie Booth is also a Queen's Counsel and part-time judge. This week she takes centre stage in her own profession to chair the annual conference on Saturday of the 8,000-strong Bar. Her chairmanship is timely: Lord Irvine of Lairg, the man who — as he put it — played "Cupid, QC" and introduced the Blair — is now Lord Chancellor and the legal profession is poised for key decisions by him and by Tony Blair's Government that will radically affect the justice system.

Ms Booth's close links with the Government require a fine line to be trod. She will not be drawn on government policy. But on her profession she has strong views and today voices them. She singles out as a "really crucial issue" the need for action by the Bar to stop the profession becoming the preserve of the wealthy and privileged few who can afford to seek entry.

Aged 43 today, Ms Booth, who rose to be a top barrister from a working-class Liverpool background, believes the profession must act to help the less well-off. She says: "It is a tragedy that people from backgrounds such as my own are now finding it difficult to enter the profession. I believe we must put more resources into this. City law firms are funding students through their vocational training stage and the Bar should consider whether that is something we should be doing to attract the best graduates." She herself would not have entered the Bar without outside funding: a local authority grant for her one-year Bar training course (a source of funds now drastically cut), scholarships during pupillage from her Inn of Court, a Bar Council loan and then teaching part-time at the Polytechnic of Central London. Now, would-be lawyers arrive with average debts of £7,000 and must find at least £8,000 for their training.

She concedes that the Inns and Bar Council have taken steps: the Bar course is now offered outside London, so some students do not have to live in the capital. Chambers also fund pupils. But more is needed, she says, to avoid the "great danger that people of modest means and talent will be put off from coming to the Bar — and that

is something that we as a profession need to address".

On the political front, a key issue is the Government's Bill to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law. Whatever model for this is chosen, Ms Booth insists, "make a difference" to lawyers: and it will make it easier and quicker for people to pursue alleged human rights breaches. Decisions are also pending on the future of the £1.6 billion legal aid scheme and Lord Woolf's proposals to revamp the civil justice system. Under Woolf, the costs and pace of litigation would be tightly controlled and judges would become trial managers. But, Ms Booth comments: "Views are mixed. On the one hand, the Bar is keen to ensure that there is proper access to justice and that this should be done in as

have dropped with her need now to fit in official engagements, may well still reap more than £100,000 a year. But she denies that she or many at the Bar are "fat cats". "Most barristers will do some legal aid work and are very reliant on it for their income," she counters. "Others have a more mixed combination of private and public work." Junior barristers, particularly on criminal legal aid, are by no means "living off the fat of the land". There are many, she says, "doing publicly funded work who do an incredibly good job for the public and do not earn anything like the fees speculated about in the press. Many in the 'young Bar' can barely make ends meet."

She would like to see more encouragement to new entrants, women and ethnic minorities, to reach the top of the tree. She herself has not suffered discrimination: quite the reverse. "Sometimes," she explains, "once clients know you can do the job they are kinder to you than they would be to a man." But she is aware that others have faced prejudice and has set up a "free of charge" discrimination unit to help barristers of either sex with problems.

Is the Bar a bastion of male chauvinism? "The Bar is no different from other professions or businesses. And it has done a great deal, with its excellent equality code, for instance. There are still problems for women, but things are getting better all the time. Women now make up nearly half new entrants. When I did my pupillage in 1976 the proportion of women was 16 per cent — I sometimes wonder, if I had known that, whether I would have gone on with it."

But she favours a "mentoring" system in which new entrants are allocated a senior barrister to advise and also to encourage them to put themselves forward for silk or judicial appointment. For herself, Ms Booth, an assistant recorder, agrees that to become a judge would be a natural progression of her work in shaping the law. Her rise has been swift, taking silk at 40 on her first application. She also maintains a full role as a mother of three.

In the past, she says, "having a family has caused women to slow down a little but that has been very



Cherie Booth, QC: "People from backgrounds such as my own find it difficult to enter the profession"

much recognised by the Lord Chancellor's Department, and I think it is perfectly possible for women to have children, maintain an active role with those children and still develop a practice to a degree which allows you to apply for silk and get it."

early thirties when they might have been hoping to have a family."

But child-rearing these days is for both partners. "Young men, too, want to spend time with their families... the idea that as a barrister you spend 24 hours a day, seven days a week and the only contribution to your family is to provide an income, is not acceptable to many men now."

The job meant they could take time off for a child's sports day and the request "won't be greeted with horror, which it probably would have 20 years ago."

The profession, and its image, is altering. Many speakers on Saturday are not the traditional "white, public school educated and Oxbridge" type but people like herself. And more judges are now women, from ethnic minorities, and solicitors, broadening its make-up, encouraging others to follow. "The profession is changing," she adds, "and that is a good thing, because unless we get talent from all areas of life, the Bar will not continue to be the centre of excellence that it now is."

Record number to attend forum

THE Home Secretary will address 500 barristers — a record number — at Saturday's annual Bar conference in the Whitbread Brewery Centre, London. Jack Straw's speech will be followed by an open forum session, which includes Robert Owen, QC, this year's Bar Chairman; Patricia Scotland, QC, and Professor Michael Zander. This year's conference, sponsored by *The Times*, Allied Dunbar and Toshiba, includes key workshop sessions on recent sentencing reforms, on personal injury litigation, on Europe and employment protection, technology and the Internet, advocacy and on running a competitive law practice.

The Criminal Bar Association is staging a hypothetical case following a notional defendant from surveillance to sentence. Two silks from the circuits, Robert Latham, QC, and Michael Murphy, QC, are moderating and contributors include Roy Penrose, national co-ordinator of the regional crime squads of England and Wales; and Judge Neil Denison, Common Sergeant of London. A similar hypothetical on "disaster or disastrous litigation?" will be chaired by Lord Justice Otton.

Stephen Richards, first Junior Treasury counsel, is addressing a session chaired by Robin Allen, QC, on employment law called "protection at work" and Laura Cox, QC, will talk on Europe and maternity rights. A computer given by Toshiba is to be raffled to raise funds for Justice for Children, the NSPCC campaign. The day ends with a dinner attended by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Chief Justice and other senior judges.

'It is perfectly possible for women to have children — and still develop a practice'

speedy and cost-effective way as possible. On the other, we must be careful not to throw the baby out with the bathwater and to ensure that people still can put their case and feel they do have their day in court."

The reforms will, she believes, contain "checks and balances" so that judicial control does not "undermine" the view that they are impartial. As chairwoman of the Bar's telecommunications working party, she also hopes that information technology "will play a big role" in the Woolf reforms and throughout the justice system.

Civil justice reforms go hand in hand with legal aid. The government review is likely to lead to legal aid being scrapped in its present form. Lord Irvine has already infuriated lawyers with an attack on £1-million-a-year "fat cats" and the few high-earning legal aid QCs. Ms Booth, whose earnings must

Passing the buck

THE Crown Prosecution Service, now under review by Sir John Glidewell, is usually attacked for dropping tricky cases. But John Baldwin, director of judicial administration at Birmingham University, has been asked by the CPS to find out why 10 per cent of all cases which go to court are thrown out by the judge.

An analysis of failed cases and interviews with CPS lawyers found that prosecutors are "very reluctant to terminate weak cases, even when alerted to serious problems". He says in the *Criminal Law Review*: "Put bluntly, weak cases continue to be submitted to the Crown Court because of a reluctance, even a disinclination, on the part of certain

reviewing lawyers to make the tough decisions in serious cases required of them under the Code for Crown Prosecutors."

He also suggests that the more serious the case, the more inclined are CPS staff to suppress any doubts they may have and allow it to go before a jury.

● **LIBERTY**, the human rights group, is inviting nominations for a new Human Rights Award. Organised jointly with the Law Society Gazette and with sponsorship from the Bar Council and Criminal Bar, it plans to present the awards on Human Rights Day, December 10. Names can be put forward for one of two awards:

the Human Rights Lawyer of the Year 1997 (open to all lawyers, judges and trainees) and the Human Rights Award 1997, open to journalists, campaigners and any non-lawyer. Details: Liberty, 0171-403 1904.

Stairs are stars PICCADILLY Circus, Leicester Square, a host of other Tube stations and the Law Society's grand staircase — these are among the legacies of the British architect Charles Holden.

Last Saturday curious observers took advantage of a rare chance to feast their eyes on the elegant staircase when the society took part in English National Heritage's Open

House Day, when buildings of architectural interest were opened to the public free of charge.

Mr Holden, later architect to London Transport, also designed the extension to the building, on the corner of Chancery Lane and Carey Street, described by Pevsner as a work of the "most remarkable elegance".

● **THE hunt is on for a British judge for the new European Court of Human Rights**, which is being created next year. An advertisement appeared in *The Times* last week for the post, which arises with the merger of the current court and its first tier, the European Commission of Human Rights, into a single court. The merger is expected to take effect in autumn 1998, by which time the European Convention on Human Rights is expected to be enshrined into UK law.

Affordable justice

PLANS for opening up "no win, no fee" litigation which Geoff Hoon, Minister for Legal Affairs, is expected to unveil today at a conference held by the Policy Studies Institute were strongly backed last week by Sir Richard Scott, the Vice-Chancellor. He told a seminar on legal costs insurance held by solicitors Silverman Shierliker that "no win, no fee" arrangements should cover "every type of civil litigation".

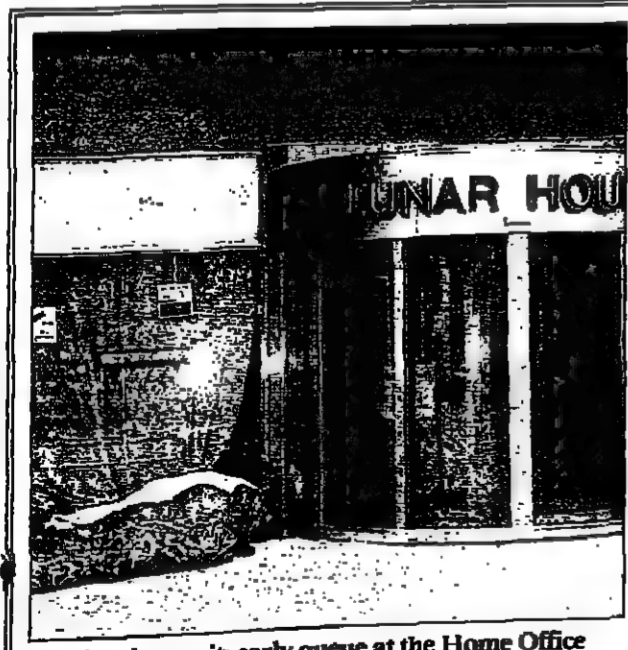
This would broaden access to justice and help to end the position in which millions could not afford to go to law. "This is a lamentable state of affairs," he said. "And it is going to become more lamentable unless something is done."

SCRIVENOR

So tired of waiting

CITY lawyers and businessmen are camping all night in sleeping bags outside the Home Office immigration department because of delays caused by new procedures. Julia Onslow-Cole, a leading immigration lawyer with Cameron McKenna, says that representatives from law and other firms with immigration, work-permit or residence applications had to queue in "squalid and uncomfortable conditions" from midnight on, to be sure of being seen. They were only allowed to present one case at a time. A Russian bank chairman waited from 2am, but failed to get an appointment.

STUART & FRANCIS



Sleeping on it: early queue at the Home Office

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② **CIVIL COURTS** YOU MUST DECIDE ON THE BALANCE OF PROBABILITIES

③ **SCOTLAND** I'LL TAKE A COMFORTABLE MAJORITY LET'S SAY, TOP OF THE TURNOUT

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EMPLOYMENT 1-3 Years' PGE
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True stories of ruff justice

Earlier this month, Judge Barry Salzman of the New York State Supreme Court ordered Chester, a four-year-old dog, to undergo a "full psychological evaluation" by an animal behaviourist to determine whether he (the dog, not the judge) had a "vicious propensity".

Whether this dog should be given a bad name is the subject of litigation because of what happened to Grace Shen in 1995 when walking Casper, her West Highland terrier, in the Bronx. Chester, a large chow, sank his teeth into Casper's neck. Mrs Shen tried to defend her puppy, but Chester turned his attentions to Mrs Shen and bit off her right thumb. She is now suing Chester's owner, Oleg Kornchenko, a security guard at the Russian mission to the United Nations.

The bone of contention is Mrs Shen's claim for \$10 million compensation for the pain and injury to her thumb (it was sewn back, but will never be the same again), and for the trauma suffered by her and her dog. Now that Mrs Shen's lawyers have their teeth into Chester's owner because of the bad behaviour of his dog, Mr Kornchenko will no doubt be wishing that he had bought a goldfish. To determine the dispute, Judge Salzman needs to know whether Chester's bark was worse than his bite, or whether the dog is just barking mad.

The sad tale of *Shen v Kornchenko* and Chester is the latest in a long series of cases that periodically turn courtrooms into kennels. The European Commission of Human Rights held in *X v Iceland* in 1976 that even though dogs have had "close ties with man since time immemorial", there is no fundamental right to keep a dog. That is because, as the commission noted, ownership of a dog is "necessarily associated with certain interferences with the life of others". Those "interferences" often provoke litigation. Every dog must have his day in court. Malmomah County District in Portland, Oregon, had the distinction of creating a special "dog court" in 1979 because there was enough legal business arising out of

Exceptional problems dog courts when they try to establish blame in animal cases



COUNSEL
DAVID
PANICK QC

the activities of the canine population to keep a judge occupied for one day a week.

Dr Doolittle could talk to the animals, but there are limits to the ability of lawyers to produce testimony from other species. In 1991 the United States District Court refused to grant a remedy to Timmy, a 33-year-old gorilla living in Cleveland Zoo. His supporters argued that he would suffer "emotional distress" by being moved to New York to mate with a female gorilla there, when he had a female mate (albeit an infertile one) in Cleveland, whom he "loves and trusts". The gorilla was presumably too upset to give evidence.

Judge Salzman will not be the first judge (or the last) to hear evidence from a dog. On previous occasions, judges have been told the wolf, the whole wolf and nothing but the wolf. In 1981 a defendant in criminal proceedings in New York contended that he could not have committed the violent crime of which he was accused because the victim had a large, aggressive German Shepherd, which would have protected

its owner. The victim replied that her dog was small, meek and mild.

Judge Irving Lang decided that to help the jury at the criminal trial, expert evidence should be given by the director of New York's Animal Behaviour Therapy Clinic, who would examine the dog to determine whether it "exhibits any aggressive behaviour in response to certain stimuli". However, the judge wisely denied defence counsel's application "to re-enact the incident with the actual victim".

In 1987, a dog was called as a witness at an industrial tribunal hearing in Southampton. Tetter, a border collie, gave evidence to show her obedience to the commands of her owner, the author Richard Adams. In 1994 the Court of Appeal accepted that a dog handler could give evidence that a police dog had reacted to the scent left by the culprit at the scene of the crime by tracking and finding the defendant.

Lord Chief Justice Taylor emphasised that the handler would need to explain to the jury the training and expertise of the dog, and that the jury would need to be warned to be careful with such evidence, "having regard to the fact that the dog may not always be reliable and cannot be cross-examined".

As the California Court of Appeal noted in 1986, dog cases offer a particular temptation, which lawyers find difficult to resist. Allowing an appeal against an order for the destruction of Missy, a Labrador, Associate Justice Gilbert's judgment insisted that he would make no reference to "unmuzzled liberty", reasons would not be "dogmatically asserted" and the other judges would not "concur".

Chester will soon be lying down on the couch, relaxing and telling his shrink why he has led such a dog's life. There is no news yet on whether Chester will accept that he should be consigned to the doghouse, or deny everything on the ground that Mrs Shen is barking up the wrong tree.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



Tom Hanks and friend in *Turner & Hooch*: beware when canine cases go to court

Edward Fennell on suing Teacher

A lawyer for every lecturer?

It is "Education, education, education" going to be followed by "Litigation, litigation, litigation". This summer's vacation row over impending tuition fees has already pushed college and government officials into a huddle with lawyers. On Friday education managers from around the country will convene at a forum hosted by a Birmingham law firm on the implication of the new contractual relationship between students and educational institutions.

Nicola Hart, the head of the education department at the firm, Martineau Johnson, says it is important that colleges should gear themselves up to the new challenges. Students — and their parents — are increasingly going to regard themselves as "customers" of the further and higher education system. Unless educational managers clarify exactly what they are offering to students, the field will be wide open to litigation.

Ms Hart says: "I would like to see more action now so that colleges can handle possible disputes with students. Regulation and procedures need to be written down in an explicit way. It has to be clear what the colleges are offering to students and what they require in return."

One possible scenario feared by many institutions is that if students fail their courses, they will sue on the grounds of negligent or incompetent teaching. She says: "To protect themselves, colleges need to start defining what they want from students in terms of attendance at lectures."

The problem is that this is likely to precipitate an increase in bureaucracy as students are, for example,

compelled to register for every lecture in order to provide evidence in case of possible future legal action. David Isaac of Cole and Cole, solicitors in Oxford, comments that his education clients now publishes exam results against the background of threats of action from students with low grades. He has come across an American student taking action, claiming he was badly taught. Mr Isaac says: "We can expect American attitudes to spread among students."

Academic failure is not the only ground for litigation. Cases of sexual harassment and sports injuries are also heating up the legal atmosphere on campus. University administrators are already being asked to act in a more entrepreneurial way and need to see their lawyers regularly to discuss issues such as how to take advantage of the Private Finance Initiative (PFI).

This also applies to schools. Anne Topaz, a property partner with Pinsent Curtis, says that many schools are so strapped for cash that the only hope they have for improving their facilities is a PFI deal.

She is already working with one school on a project designed to establish how to raise money from the private sector. But, as she points out, virtually all schools face a hard-to-bridge "affordability gap" with PFI.

Miss Topaz considers that lawyers should bring their commercial experience to bear in order to help institutions to devise imaginative ideas for squeezing money out of their new offerings. "It is difficult," she says, "but I think they will get there in the end."

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Michael Chambers

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Our legal directory is available from 01605 (01405-710 971)

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For further information, in complete confidence, please contact our retained consultants, Sally Horrox or Lizzie Orange on 0171-523 3838 (0181-740 4108 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Zarak Macrae Brenner, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax: 0171-523 3839. E-mail: lizzie@zmb.co.uk This assignment is being handled exclusively by ZMB and all direct and third party applications will be forwarded to them. Closing date for applications is 13th October 1997.



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Interested candidates should contact our exclusively retained consultant Lindsey Newman at In-House Legal on 0171 405 0151. Fax: 0171 831 6498. Or write to In-House Legal at 17 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4QH. E-mail: hwgroup@hwgroup.co.uk Internet: <http://www.hwgroup.com>

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An application form and further information may be obtained by telephoning Mrs A P Alvey of the Committee Secretariat on Ashford (01233) 653102. Alternatively, interested persons may discuss the position informally with Mr S R Savage (Justices' Chief Executive) by telephoning 01622 674226.

The closing date for applications is 20 October 1997.

We welcome applications from all sectors of the community irrespective of race, gender, ethnic origin or disability.

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Chambers encompasses all aspects of general common law including all areas of criminal law, family law, personal injury, medical and professional negligence, local government, construction, industrial disease and employers' liability, commercial law, insurance, landlord and tenant, employment law.

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- Carrying out litigation in-house.
- Advising on risk management.
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For further information, in complete confidence, please contact June Meszle or Nick Peacock on 0171-485 6662 (0171-228 0476 evenings/weekends) or write to them at QD In-House Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EJ. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. This assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis by QD In-House Legal and all direct and third party applications will be forwarded to them.

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As a Crown Prosecutor you will review and where appropriate prosecute criminal cases. In each case you review you will consider whether there is sufficient evidence and if so whether the public interest requires a prosecution.

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Application forms are available until 4.00 pm on 29 September 1997.

Completed application forms must be received by 6 October 1997. Interviews are likely to be held week commencing 13 October 1997.

The Crown Prosecution Service is an Equal Opportunities Employer and positively encourages applications from suitably qualified/eligible people regardless of race, sex or disability.



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9 BEDFORD ROW

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Following the recent interviews for a 3rd, 6 month pupillage, the pupillage committee would like to thank all those who kindly took the time to write letters of recommendation or acted as referees for the many applicants.

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The Chambers of John Gardiner Q.C. invite applications for a tenancy. The Chambers, whilst small, are extremely successful, practising exclusively in the fields of tax and corporate finance. The work is often both demanding and technically difficult but carries with it commensurate rewards for persons of real ability.

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MITSUBISHI CORPORATION INTERNATIONAL N.V.
LEGAL ADVISER

MCINV is the European Headquarters of Mitsubishi Corporation based in London. MGINV is responsible for all the offices throughout Europe Africa and Middle East Region.

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Candidates should be qualified English Lawyers with experience of general commercial and company. Someone with approximately 5 years' experience of providing legal advice in international and UK domestic trading, sales, distribution and financing would fit the ideal profile. Knowledge of EC Law is important. Drafting and negotiation of contracts and dealing with relevant legal issues will form a major part of the job.

In career terms this is a high profile post and in order to achieve the commitment we expect, we anticipate that after an initial period in London the successful candidate will be given 1/2 years in Tokyo to integrate the global company policies.

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Mitsubishi Corporation (UK) PLC



Global Trust Services

DOCUMENTARY REVIEWER

The Transaction Management Group of Global Trust Services is looking for a candidate who will take a pro-active approach to the review and negotiation of documentation, up to deal closure, in a complex business environment.

A recognised legal and accounting/commerce qualification, a minimum three years' banking/finance legal experience and strong negotiation and interpersonal skills are required. Other pre-requisites are an extensive knowledge of Capital Markets documentation, a good understanding of banking operations and global clearing systems and experience of the listing requirements of both the London and Luxembourg stock exchanges.

An understanding of operational aspects of deal structures, an ability to interface with clients, (both issuers and arrangers), and their advisers, as well as other areas of the Bank internationally are all requirements of the role. A comprehensive knowledge of key market practices and an ability to communicate and co-ordinate deals with a dedicated operation and support group is necessary. The role requires strong verbal and written skills complemented by an ability to work within a team environment, under pressure and to tight timeframes.

Interested applicants should send their CV to Caroline Hooper, Chase Manhattan International Limited, Trinity Tower, 9 Thomas More Street, London E1 9YT. The closing date is 10th October 1997.

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For the Far East please call Connor Greene (Ex Clifford Chance).

For Australia please call Suzie Tracey (Ex Freehills) or Fiona Spender (Ex Phillips Fox).

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Your right to prosecute



Stephen Silber, QC,
left, outlines
proposals to
improve the
public's access
to the law



Dame Barbara Mills, the DPP: her consent is often needed for a private prosecution

A large number of criminal offences cannot be prosecuted without the consent of either a government law officer or Dame Barbara Mills, Director of Public Prosecutions. Consent provisions are important; they touch on the fundamental issue of the right of private prosecution and, more practically, they make impositions on the administration of the criminal justice system.

Many commentators, however, have criticised the present consent system on the ground that there seems to be no unifying principle to justify the range of offences within it nor any clear explanation as to why in some cases it is the DPP and in others a law officer who has authority to consent.

A former law officer with much experience of the system described it as being "full of anomalies and even absurdities". For example, the DPP's consent is required to prosecute a victim's spouse for stealing or unlawful damage, but is not needed to prosecute the victim's spouse for obtaining property by deception, wounding, rape or even murder. Another anomaly is that a prosecution for bribery might be brought under either the common law or statute law but consent is needed only under the latter. Others are concerned that the DPP can delegate her authority to consent to any crown prosecutor, however junior.

The Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure, under the chairmanship of Sir Cyril Phillips, took the view that the

consent system should be rationalised; and with the encouragement of the law officers and the DPP, the Law Commission has carried out this work.

The right of private prosecution is widely regarded as fundamental. Lord Diplock said that it provided a constitutional safeguard against "capricious, corrupt or biased failure or refusal" by the authorities to prosecute.

In our consultation paper published today, *Criminal Law: Consent to Prosecution 1997*, we agree with this. The right to bring a private prosecution should be circumscribed only with good reason, although we appreciate that a misconceived private prosecution can give great distress to a defendant, even when it is dismissed.

We provisionally conclude that a consent provision is justified in relation to three categories of offences. The first category comprises those offences that might involve national security or have some international element — by which we mean offences that relate to international obligations of the State, or have been introduced to combat international terrorism or in response to international conflict, or have a bearing on international relations. Because these offences give rise to issues of public policy of an international character, we provisionally conclude that the consent decision in these cases should be taken by a law officer.

The second category concerns offences that impact on free speech. At present, there

are a number of such offences, the prosecution of which requires consent: for example, stirring up racial hatred under the Public Order Act 1986, and offences relating to the presentation of obscene performances at plays.

We appreciate that the decision to prosecute in such cases might involve balancing fundamental principles — the right to bring a private prosecution against the right to free expression; that it might involve questions of public policy going beyond the facts of the case under consideration; and that it is in the democratic interest that such decisions should be made by an officer who is directly, or indirectly, accountable to Parliament. We have provisionally concluded that, where the subject matter of an offence

impinges on the right of free expression, it would be considered appropriate to limit the right of private prosecution by way of a consent provision.

The third category concerns certain offences which could be the subject of both criminal and civil proceedings. We are concerned that in some of these cases (such as where an offence is not so serious that only a prosecution will suffice and where both parties to the proceedings have sufficient resources) civil proceedings alone might be the more appropriate course without the institution of criminal proceedings as well. We have provisionally concluded, therefore, that consent provisions should be used to control the prosecution of those offences that will more often be more

appropriately left to the civil courts.

We have provisionally concluded that for both the second and third categories the consent decision should be assigned to the DPP but that, unlike under the present law, it should be made either personally by the DPP or by a senior crown prosecutor, namely one of the new chief crown prosecutors appointed to oversee the work of the proposed Crown Prosecution Service areas.

We would be very grateful for all comments on the consultation paper to be received at this commission before December 31, 1997.

• The author is a Law Commissioner.

• Criminal Law: Consent to Prosecutions (1997) Law Commission Consultation Paper No 149 (L201) is available from the Stationery Office and on the Internet at: <http://www.gnet.gov.uk/LAWCOMM/Home Page.htm>

Daniel Brennan, QC looks at 'no win, no fee'

Today the Policy Studies Institute presents its verdict on how conditional — "no win, no fee" — arrangements have fared since their introduction in 1995. The report was commissioned by the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Legal Education and Conduct. At the launch, Geoff Hoon, the Legal Affairs Minister, will outline the Government's response and say whether the scheme should be expanded.

At present, "no win, no fee" covers only personal injury claims, insolvency work and European Court of Human Rights proceedings. If a claim succeeds, lawyers are entitled to an uplift on costs based on their risk-assessment of the claim. There is no experience so far as to how effective or fair they are as an alternative to legal aid, private funding or legal costs insurance.

There are crucial questions. How many such arrangements are made? How reliable is the lawyer's assessment of risk? Is the uplift of costs payable on success reliably linked to the degree of risk? To what extent is the Bar used — or overused — and can the system operate without insurance against the defendant's costs that underpins it at present in personal injury work?

Suggestions that litigants should use conditional fees rather than receive legal aid are premature and unconvincing. It cannot be assumed that they would provide a system of legal representation in all money-recovery claims: insolvency practitioners have not greatly taken them up. Neither is there reason to suppose they will be used in other money disputes.

The Bar took the firm view that lawyers should not have a direct financial interest in the money clients were seeking to recover. With the new system, there is still a danger that lawyers will develop a mindset whereby costs are fixed as a percentage of the sum claimed, regardless of risk. The more widely they become used, the more likely U.S.-style contingency fee thinking (in which lawyers take a slice of the damages) will develop.

Then there is the fact that conditional fees cannot apply in criminal, family or public law work, where legal aid must continue. But the debate about access to justice in money-recovery claims should not simply involve the legal



Are the costs worth the risk?

aid system, and alternatives of conditional fees and legal costs insurance. Our legal aid scheme commanded respect throughout the common law world. But two critical problems have arisen. First, the gross cost of legal aid, at more than £1.5 billion. Recent analysis has shown, however, that the net cost to the taxpayer in 1996-97 was about £790 million. Non-matrimonial civil legal aid is the area of lowest net cost to the taxpayer. Such claims for money recovery give the most scope for reform.

The second problem is that changes to financial eligibility mean that many people are excluded from legal aid and cannot afford to litigate.

Many at the Bar believe the solution is a Contingency Legal Aid Fund (CLAF) in which a percentage of damages recovered by litigants supported by the fund is paid back into the fund. As non-matrimonial civil legal aid is largely self-financing, contingent payments will ensure that the fund is fully self-financing. These payments will then

enable the fund to extend legal aid to litigants whose claims have a reasonable prospect of success, giving legal redress to many who cannot now afford it.

A Bar working group has just published a consultation paper on such a fund and how it might work. Last week (Law, September 16) the President of the Law Society set out similar proposals. Such a fund contrasts favourably with conditional fees, where success means only the client's lawyer benefits — a "win, then extra costs" system.

The Bar is determined to protect, and where possible enlarge, the citizen's access to justice. It recognises the Government's concern that public funding of litigation should be economic and effective. The Government, legal profession and all interested in access to justice should work in the fullest investigation of the legal aid system, conditional fees and schemes such as the CLAF to ensure that citizens have access to justice.

• The author is a past chairman of the Personal Injuries Bar Association.

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Entrepreneurs show how to make money from items that most people discard

'New from old' philosophy combines thrift with green virtues

By Rodney Hobson

YUVAL ELIA has built up his company by recycling cartridges from printing machines.

He can save firms £50 or more for each cartridge, yet many office workers throw used cartridges into the waste paper bin.

By recycling them Mr Elia has built up the company into a workforce of 65 people operating out of a state-of-the-art plant at Newcastle-under-Lyme in Staffordshire.

Mr Elia has "recycled" his Applied Film Industries company to take advantage of the fast-changing markets.

When he started out in 1984 he had two employees and made the ink ribbons that were widely used in typewriters and printers in those days.

He realised, though, that this market would decline as printers became more sophisticated and two years later he spotted a more promising opportunity. Cash registers in supermarkets were being switched over to dot matrix printing, so he changed direction as well.

Then five years ago dot matrix was replaced by inkjets and laser printers and Mr Elia moved with the market again.

He said: "Cartridges are very

expensive and people were throwing them away and buying new ones. In Formula One racing they take the car apart after every race and rebuild it. In the next race you have got a new engine.

"We do the same with cartridges. We take them apart and rebuild them and they match the new cartridges. Some are even better."

Each cartridge is inspected, dismantled, cleaned and re-assembled using new components as necessary.

The work is labour-intensive — but research and development is also a significant consideration as Mr Elia must match raw materials, such as toner powder and the springs inside the cartridge, to get the best results.

A new cartridge typically costs about £130. Mr Elia can supply them for £70 to £80. Many of his clients are blue-chip companies. Yet the people who buy the recycled cartridges often fail to send used ones back.

He said that he buys most of his supplies from brokers who make a living from buying them cheaply — often from office workers who have picked them out of bins.

Applied Film Industries: 0171-428 5000



Yuval Elia even "recycled" his company as technology improved



Cosima Pole is winning hearts and orders with cards of character

Greetings grow on recycled scrap

COSIMA POLE started her own company using scrap card from her parents' lampshade factory. Three years later, she exhibits at foreign trade fairs and sells her products around the world.

She left school at 18 and set up Scrap, her company, making cards, tags and decorations. When she visited the Liberty store in Regent Street, London, she

showed some of her designs to the buyer. Liberty ordered 3,500 cards.

Encouraged by her success, she phoned other prospective outlets and sent samples, always making follow-up telephone calls. Her wide range of highly coloured products caught the eye. Miss Pole now rents

half a unit from her parents on an industrial estate at Halesworth, Suffolk, and employs five people.

After exhibiting in New York, Miss Pole won an order from the Art Institute of Chicago. Sales have been won as far away as Australia. Spain ordered 6,000 items and she is considering setting up a distribution centre in Paris.

Her business has long outgrown the scraps from her parents' business and she now has to buy in most of her material. She said: "I

will use anything I can get my hands on and my Christmas cards are still made out of scrap. I have used bubble wrapping and other packing materials and I go round the industrial estate knocking on doors and asking if they have any rubbish. I am always on the lookout for scrap."

Scrap is on 01986 874417

Century Club to help family concerns

A CLUB is being set up for family businesses that are at least 100 years old to offer advice and information (Brian Collett writes).

It will be part of the Stoy Centre for Family Business, formed in 1992 as an independent body by BDO Stoy Hayward, the account-

ants that specialises in growing companies.

The Century Club was the idea of Tony Duerr, managing director of a Manchester company, established in 1881, that makes jam, marmalade and peanut butter. Peter Leach, the centre's chair-

man, who is a BDO Stoy Hayward partner, said: "The club will be there to help these companies to continue for another 100 years and to disseminate their knowledge."

Mr Duerr said: "We all know in owner-managed hotels you will always find someone who cares. If

I'm in the office I will speak to anyone. Would the chairman of a public company do that? I think we should share our secrets among ourselves. It is the way to beat our big rivals."

Inquiries: 0171-486 5888

Start-ups fail to research finance

By Rodney Hobson

IT COSTS on average £11,000 to set up a new business, according to research by Barclays Bank. Yet most budding entrepreneurs fail to research potential sources of finance and they are often held back by shortage of cash.

About a third of small businesses borrow to get going, usually from a bank or building society. Friends and family are the other main source of funds for starting up, the bank found. Although this type of arrangement is based mainly on trust, often with no formal contract, it generally works well, Barclays found.

Mike Davis, the bank's small business services director, said: "The level of awareness of the broad range of finance options available to small businesses remains low. Some 14 per cent of entrepreneurs say that lack of available finance is the major constraint to business growth, yet only half of all businesses we surveyed researched the funding options available to them before starting up. Only a fifth examined whether they were eligible for funding through EU or government grants. Raising finance through factoring debts or sales invoices was considered by only one in ten businesses."

It takes on average just one month from an approach to a lender to receipt of the money, the bank said. Nearly half of small businesses get their cash within a week and fewer than one in ten have to wait for three months or more.

However, age is a factor in the speed of raising finance. Mr Davis said: "Older entrepreneurs seem to have better access to finance than their younger counterparts. This may reflect the experience they have accrued in the workplace, coupled with long-established relationships with their finance providers."

Most firms also make a conscious effort to speed their cash flow to pay off borrowings.

Growing businesses are increasingly borrowing against the invoices they issue, latest figures from the Factors and Discounters Association show. Its members recorded a 19 per cent increase in funds issued and a 17 per cent increase in the number of firms using their services in the first half of 1997.

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Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, reflects on another summer of underachievement

Soap opera suffers familiar failings when plot is lost

Every cricket season is a soap opera. Through its routines and its relentless, a rhythm unlike any other sport, it creates storylines and characters that run from day to day, episode to episode. It is a bit like watching *EastEnders* seven nights a week.

This has not been a vintage episode. It should have been. It was an Ashes summer at international level and a potential watershed year for the counties. On and off the field, great things were anticipated, which makes the sense of anticlimax all the more acute.

England did not beat Australia. Indeed, after the glorious deception of early summer, they did not even come close. The counties, too, hunted at far more than they achieved. Their standards did not discernibly improve and neither did their will to expand through experiment.

The rejection of a two-division championship, and its message of contempt for Lord MacLaurin of Kent, was a depressing echo of the self-interested choruses that have retarded the county game for decades. By refusing him his principal proposal, one with cricketing and commercial logic, he risked alienating Lord MacLaurin and tacitly pleaded for a return to the complacency of past chairmen.

We should not be surprised by this. The surprise would come from reform and enlightenment. Some momentum has been achieved this year, largely in the modernisation and rationalisation of one-day cricket. When it came to it, the counties could not bear to admit that the championship required a re-look, too.

Equally, we should not be surprised that the Ashes remain with Australia. The management and selection of the England team may have advanced, but the quality of play is still damagingly inconsistent.

At this level, the ongoing personalities were the captains. One, Mark Taylor, had to defy rumour and agitation even to begin the series; the other, Michael Atherton, had to do the same to complete it. That both remain in office for the winter is testimony to their character.

est, will standards show any advance.

The quality of bowling in England is deplorably low. True, there is a crop of young seam bowlers showing promise, including Cowan, Hewitt, Ormond and Hutchinson, but most seem unable to adhere to elementary disciplines.

In announcing the England team for the winter, David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, made particular reference to the inaccuracy of seam bowling on the county circuit. It was no coincidence that he combined these remarks with the recall of Angus Fraser, that shining exception to all such strictures. England need a few younger clones of Fraser and Hutchinson in it in him to be a left-arm version.

The dearth of spin is, if anything, still more pronounced. Off spin has become an endangered activity. Below Robert Croft and Peter Such, there is a void, graphically illustrated by the wild-card selection of Jonathan Powell, an Essex second XI, in the England A tour party.

Leg spin offers no consolation. The cupboard looks forlornly bare, a matter that David Lloyd, the England coach, hopes to address. His idea is to institute a mini academy for young leg-break bowlers, a worthy idea that would doubtless be kick-started if Shane Warne joins an English county next season.



Steve James, left, came straight from Glamorgan's animated championship celebrations to collect yet another individual prize at Lord's yesterday. Mark Ramprakash, right, by contrast, arrived directly from a hospital delivery room, where he had

been present at the birth of his first child. Ramprakash's wife, Van, produced a baby girl at 8am. Four hours later, the captain of Middlesex picked up a cheque for £10,000 having won the Whyte & Mackay batting ratings for the second time in three

years. James was named as cricketer of the year for his immense contribution to Glamorgan's first title since 1969 and Andrew Caddick held off the challenges of Douggie Brown and Mike Smith to win the bowler of the year award.

Warne, of course, would be a magic draw, which is largely the point of overseas players. At least, I think it is. Their attractions have been clouded by increasing complications. Availability within a cluttered international calendar is the main problem; value for money is another.

County players at or near the end of a contract are increasingly using agents to negotiate deals, and certain such agents are blatantly offering their clients around rival clubs to boost their market value. Those who fear that two divisions would bring a transfer system are too late. It is with us already.

Like them or loathe them, agents are here to stay. But the attitude of players towards financial security is one thing that could be altered by the overdue abolition of the benefit system. A more equitable pension scheme is one possible solution.

Pitches remain a cause for concern. Again, self-interest dictates, and the blindingly obvious solution of all groundsmen being employed by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) rather than the counties should now be adopted with urgency.

County cricket can be further enhanced by doing away with championship bonus points, which have no meaning in four-day cricket, and by every county devoting funds to the provision of broader and better practice areas. Then, perhaps, some of the lessons of 1997 can be properly absorbed.

FINAL 1997 FIRST-CLASS AVERAGES

Statistical highlights of 1997

BRITANNIA ASSURANCE county championship

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	CBs
Glamorgan (10)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Kent (4)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Worcestershire (1)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Worcestershire (8)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Yorkshire (6)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Surrey (13)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Surrey (5)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Essex (5)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Leicestershire (1)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Leicestershire (15)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Somerset (17)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Nottinghamshire (1)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Nottinghamshire (14)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Northamptonshire (2)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Derbyshire (2)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Durham (18)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Sussex (12)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20

(1998 positions in brackets)

Worcestershire and Kent's records include eight points on side batting first in matches where scores finished level

HIGHEST TOTALS: Glamorgan v Hampshire 631-700; Glamorgan v Durham 597-400; Glamorgan v Surrey 581-200; Surrey v Northamptonshire 585-400

LOWEST TOTALS: Glamorgan v Middlesex 101-100; Glamorgan v Hampshire 101-100; Glamorgan v Hampshire 101-100

HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL INNINGS: 302* G.A. Hick (Worcestershire); 297 S. Jones (Glamorgan); 297 S. Jones (Glamorgan)

BEST BOWLING (five overs): 5-84 M. M. Bates (Durham v Northants); 5-177 W. Jones (Glamorgan v Sussex); 5-88 D. G. Smith (Sussex v Gloucestershire)

13-79 P. J. Martin (Leicestershire v Middlesex); 13-83 K.D. James (Hampshire v Somerset); 13-148 M. Bates (Durham v Northants); 13-148 M. Bates (Durham v Northants)

11-43 P. R. Turner (England v Australia)

HAT-TRICKS: Glamorgan v Hampshire 17-000; Glamorgan v Hampshire 17-000; Glamorgan v Hampshire 17-000

Worcestershire v Hampshire 17-000; Glamorgan v Hampshire 17-000; Glamorgan v Hampshire 17-000

Worcestershire v Hampshire 17-000; Glamorgan v Hampshire 17-000; Glamorgan v Hampshire 17-000

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Axa Life Sunday League

Statistical highlights of 1997

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	CBs
Warwickshire (2)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Kent (12)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Leicestershire (9)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Leeds (12)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Surrey (11)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Surrey (17)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Essex (17)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Worcestershire (8)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Worcestershire (11)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Gloucestershire (16)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Gloucestershire (17)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Nottinghamshire (13)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Derbyshire (16)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Derbyshire (17)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Nottinghamshire (16)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Hampshire (15)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Leicestershire (17)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Leicestershire (16)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20
Sussex (14)	17	8	2	57	256	33.8	1	2	20

(1998 positions in brackets)

Warwickshire and Kent's records include eight points on side batting first in matches where scores finished level

HIGHEST TOTALS: Warwickshire v Hampshire 631-700; Warwickshire v Hampshire 631-700; Warwickshire v Hampshire 631-700

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TENNIS

Rusedski has the chance to cash in on elevation

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN MUNICH

SCHEDULE

Today: C. Poline (F) v F. Dewailly (Bel), Y. Kafelnikov (Rus) v S. Bruguera (Sp), M. Rios (Chil) v M. Woodbridge (Aus), G. Rusedski (GB) v T. Woodbridge (Aus).
Tomorrow: T. Muster (Aust) v P. Rafter (Aus), B. Becker (Ger) v J. Björkman (Swe), P. Korda (Cz) v G. Kuerten (Ger), P. Sampras (US) v F. Montana (Sp).

IT IS hard to know what to expect from Greg Rusedski when the Great Britain No 1 opens his campaign in one of the most valuable exhibition tournaments here this afternoon. For all its riches, the Compaq Grand Slam Cup remains outside the points-gathering orbit that so dominates the sport. Victory for Rusedski would make him \$1,500,000 better off without elevating his world ranking at all.

Strictly in terms of ranking, the 16 players embarking on this joust of fantasy are vulnerable to those contesting the Grand Prix de Tennis de Toulouse this week — among them, Tim Henman. The French tournament forms part of the ATP Tour and, therefore, distributes world ranking points. Confused? None cares: they will be carving up \$5 million for less than a week's work. Indeed, the \$425,000 Henman bankrolled for reaching the semi-finals last year accounted for half of his annual prize-money haul.

The Grand Slam Cup rewards players with the best overall records in the four grand slam tournaments. So comfortably has Rusedski qualified that he is seeded No 4, although more relevant to his prospects will be the way that he rebounds from his magnificent achievement in

reaching the US Open final. His desire to fulfil a commitment in Bournemouth the following week, where he reached the semi-finals, further depleted his resources. And he spent last week, supposedly a period of rest, riding the corporate merry-go-round of success.

"I am still tired. I would like some time off," Rusedski said before flying out to Munich over the weekend. "This was supposed to be my week off, but I have not stopped moving. I am looking forward to the tournament. There is a lot of money to be made, but it is only really an exhibition. My goal is to win the matches, but I would rather win in Stuttgart or Paris next month. If I do well, that's great. If I don't, I'm not too concerned about it."

The tournaments in Stuttgart and Paris form part of a lucrative two-month indoor season that traverses a plethora of European cities. All points lead to the ATP Tour world championship in Hannover in November, the preserve of the eight highest-ranked players in the world. Rusedski, presently No 10, has

his sights firmly fixed on the event. "I would rather be in Hannover [than Munich]," he said. "I think most players have that as their goal."

Despite his brittle state, the Grand Slam Cup comes at a favourable time for Rusedski. Pete Sampras, Patrick Rafter, Jonas Björkman and Todd Woodbridge were all involved in Davis Cup semi-finals last weekend. Woodbridge is Rusedski's first-round opponent here this afternoon. "I beat Todd the last time we met in Singapore [in October]," Rusedski said. "It is going to be a difficult match, but I hope I will be a bit fresher than him."

This tournament marks Rusedski's debut into an event designed for the elite. He can only gain from rubbing shoulders with the best but, driven as he is by rankings rather than money, there remains a suspicion that his motivation may suffer. Yet the roll-call of past victors suggests that motivational problems afflict the majority of big-name players. David Wheaton, Petr Korda and Magnus Larsson have prevailed in previous years.

Whatever his fate this week, Rusedski is adamant that there will be no lingering hangover from Flushing Meadows. "I am always looking to go forward," he said. "I want to get my ranking higher and higher. Making the top 10, making the US Open final — that's already history in a way. I want to sustain that improvement. Maybe, when I retire, I can look back, but not now. The day you get comfortable, the day you stop striving to go forward, your ranking will slip."

Those who have scaled similar heights testify that it is harder to consolidate gains than to make them. Rusedski will now experience the predicament at first hand.

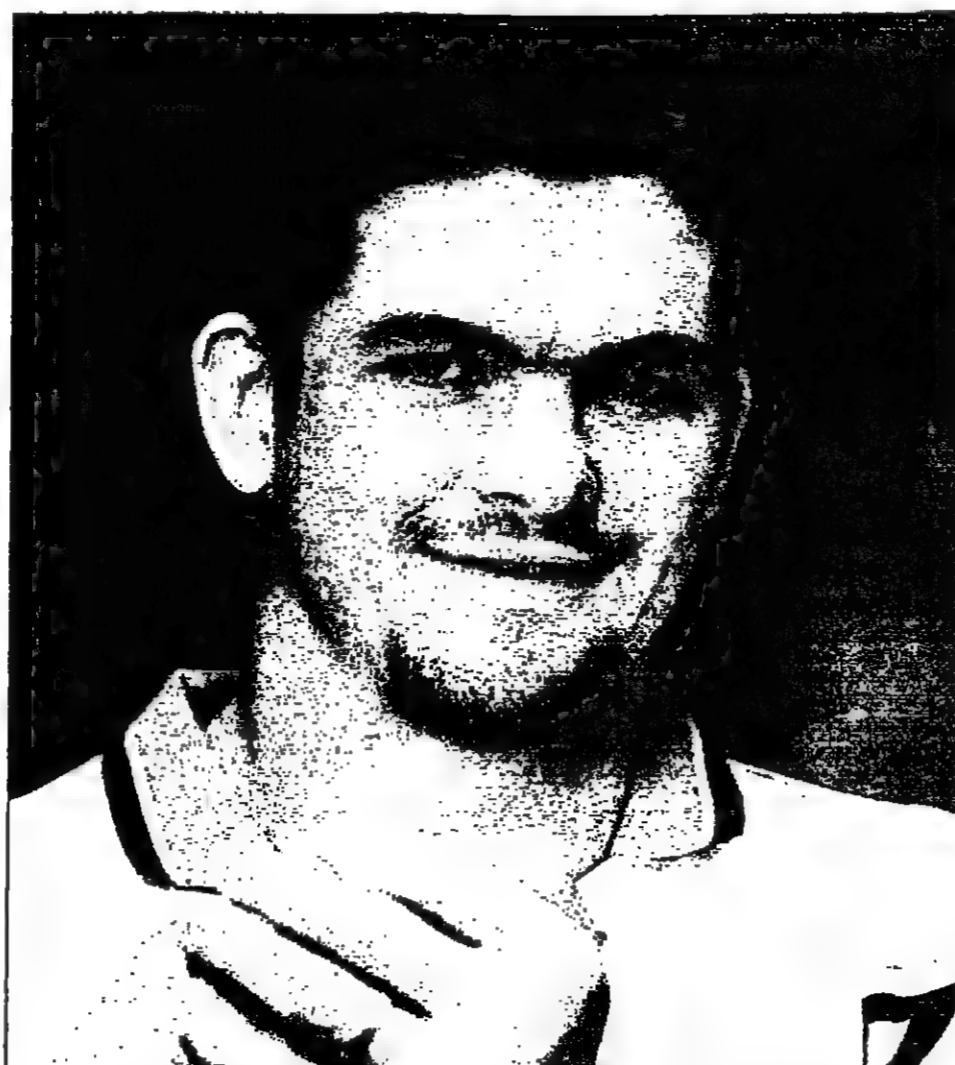
He is not short of ambition and the next two months will demonstrate whether he is legitimately ensconced among the world's top ten. With self-confidence integral to such a quest, it will do Rusedski's no harm at all to reach the latter stages this week.



Woodbridge: opponent



Rusedski: fired



Farrell hopes British Gas sponsorship will help to fuel Britain's assault on Australia

Farrell stays at the helm

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE reappointment of Andy Farrell as Great Britain rugby league captain and Denis Betts as vice-captain was confirmed to no particular surprise yesterday. However, a greater impediment — that of a backer for the three-match series against Australia in November — was also answered by an estimated £250,000 sponsorship agreement with British Gas.

By sticking with the Farrell-Betts combination, Andy Goodway, the new Britain coach, has put his faith in a formula tested in New Zealand last year. That series was lost, but Farrell, 22, and still his country's youngest captain, performed admirably in trying circumstances and his outstanding form and leadership of Wigan this season convinced Goodway of the need not to flinch.

In his time at Wigan, Goodway saw something of himself in the maturing Farrell. "I can make Andy cap-

tain and know things are going to be done," he said. "If things are wrong, he'll tell me. We both want to win as much as each other. All his traits are good ones and his enthusiasm is something I and the players can respond to. If we do struggle, we've even more experience in Denis to fall back on."

Farrell remains confident that, with the right 17 players, Britain can defy substantial odds at Wembley. Old Trafford and Elland Road in November. He recognises, too, the importance of Jason Robinson and Gary Connolly to Britain's chances, and urged the Australian Rugby League for an early decision about releasing the two Wigan players from contract: they signed in 1995 so that they can play in the series.

Although not ideal preparation, Farrell made light of Wigan's participation in the world club championship, possibly as little as two weeks

before the opening international at Wembley, on November 1. "The Australians are in the same situation and I think that when you get 17 top-class professionals together, you don't need that much coaching," he said. "If we perform on the day with all the talent we've got, we'll push Australia all the way."

Daryl Powell has been drafted in as the team's skills and conditioning coach on the basis of 33 appearances for Britain between 1990 and last year, as much as a brief spell in charge of Keighley, before his move as a player to Leeds.

British Gas's further involvement as shirt sponsors was the direct result of the sport's growing national profile. Simon Waugh, group marketing director, said that it would be a bonus if Sky's live coverage of the series could be supplemented by a BBC highlights package. The organisations are reportedly engaged in discussions.

FOOTBALL

Club video improves Pallister's prospects

BY DAVID MADDOCK
AND MATT DICKINSON

MANCHESTER United have enlisted the help of Bolton Wanderers in their attempt to earn a reprieve for Gary Pallister, their centre-half, who was sent off in the FA Carling Premiership match between the two clubs on Saturday.

Pallister was dismissed by Paul Durkin, the referee, after becoming embroiled in an argument with Nathan Blake, the Bolton forward. Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, suggested afterwards that video evidence would clear his defender of raising a fist, and said that United would appeal to the Football Association.

Durkin has since reviewed video evidence from *Match of the Day*, but that proved inconclusive. Now, though, United have sent a club video obtained from Bolton to the FA, and expect Pallister to be cleared. "Bolton have given us their club video, and it shows the incident clearly," Ferguson said.

"We have sent that off to the FA and we are quite confident that, when they view it, then Pallister will have his red card rescinded. The lad was told he was sent off for raising his fist and he quite clearly did not do that. I think the video we have sent proves it beyond doubt."

Middlesbrough have told Fabrizio Ravanelli, their Italy forward, that he can leave the club. Ravanelli will remain in the North East for the time being, but Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, made it clear that he would accept even a cut-price offer for a player who cost £7.5 million last summer.

Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea manager, may have to make a return to playing. Gullit has not started a Premiership match since March, but with Frank Leboeuf now facing a suspension and Michael Duberry injured, he is short of cover in defence.

X-rays yesterday revealed that Duberry did not break his left ankle against Arsenal on Sunday, but no diagnosis is possible on ligament or tendon damage until severe swelling goes down.

IN BRIEF

Cairns puts on patient display to earn draw

CHRIS CAIRNS played the most important innings of his career to steer New Zealand to a draw against Zimbabwe in the first Test, at the Harare Sports Club, yesterday. The 27-year-old all-rounder remained at the crease for more than 3½ hours to help the visitors to reach 304 for eight at the close and hang on for an unlikely draw. Cairns, whose father, Lance, was a New Zealand Test cricketer, remained unbeaten on 71 off 238 balls with seven fours and a six.

Towers short

Basketball: London Towers may be forced to face powerful Stefanel Milan in the European Cup without both their most recently signed American forwards at Wembley tonight. Keith Robinson is ineligible under regulations limiting the number of foreigners and James Hamilton has a groin injury.

Mixed match

Bowls: Andy Thomson, who won the Soham International Masters at the weekend, has been drawn to play Margaret Johnston, of Ireland, in the first round of the Bupa Care Homes International Open, which will be held in Preston Guild Hall from October 12-19. Thomson, who has beaten an outspoken opponent of mixed play, said: "The pressure will be on me."

Bears for sale

Rugby league: Oldham Bears have been put up for sale after being relegated from the Stones Super League. The club is without a permanent home and has debts reportedly approaching £1 million three years after the sale of their Watersheddings ground for £1.4 million.

Tour planned

Cycling: Britain will host its first significant international Tour since 1994 next year. Prudential, the life insurance and pensions company, will sponsor the race. The route will take in England, Wales and Scotland with a likely finish in central London.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

A "five or seven" hand is one in which the declarer makes eleven tricks or thirteen tricks depending on the break in a critical suit. If you are able to sniff that out during the bidding, it is correct to bid the grand slam — it makes whenever the small slam makes, so you might as well pick up the grand slam bonus. This example is from the final of the 1997 US Trials, between Deutsch and Nickell.

Dealer West	Love all	IMPs
♠ A 9 7 ♥ A 7 ♦ A 7 ♣ A K 8 6 5 2	♠ K 5 3 2 ♥ K J 10 8 4 ♦ 10 4 2 ♣ 10	
♠ Q J 8 4 ♥ 8 5 3 2 ♦ 10 ♣ Q 9 7	♠ 10 8 ♥ Q 9 ♦ K 8 6 5 3 ♣ J 4 3	

Contract: Six Diamonds by South. Lead: eight of hearts

After West (Bobby Wolff) had passed Zia Mahmood opened One Club on the North hand, East (Bob Hamman) overcalled One Heart and South (Michael Rosenberg) bid Two Diamonds. After West had bid Two Hearts Zia took control before Rosenberg had a chance to show club support, so North-South missed the superior contract of Six Clubs. By a series of artificial bids Zia discovered that South had six diamonds headed by the king-queen and no outside kings.

At that point Zia settled for Six Diamonds, but he might have realised it was a "five or seven" hand. He could count six diamond tricks (assuming they broke) and two major-suit aces. If South had two clubs he could ruff out the suit to make five tricks there, and if South had three clubs both Six Diamonds and Seven Diamonds were likely to depend on whether the clubs ran — a

lead of either major would set up a trick for the defence, which they would cash if they were able to take a club trick.

Rosenberg won the heart lead in dummy (although in the small slam he might have run it, in case West's hearts were K 10 8), drew trumps and tried clubs from the top. When West turned up with a club trick, he had to go down. If the clubs had run he would have made all thirteen tricks.

□ *The Times Book of Bridge I*, a compendium of some of these columns, is now available in all good bookshops or direct from the publisher, B. T. Batsford, on 01376 321276, price £6.99 (plus £1 postage and packing).

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ARCHOSAURIA
a. Flat feet
b. Reptiles
c. An architectural style

TEDESCA

a. German
b. A chemist
c. A fruit sundae

INTELLIGENT PIG
a. A scholarly chauvinist
b. An oil-pipeline device
c. Prize-winner at agricultural show

MARIMBA

a. A Spanish dance
b. A musical instrument
c. A poisonous snake

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Kasparov's simul

Further news today of Kasparov's simultaneous display against the entire Argentine national team in Buenos Aires on September 6 and 7. Kasparov won six games, lost one and drew five, resulting in an overwhelming victory against an outstanding group of opponents. Apart from some promising young players the Argentine squad also included former world championship candidate Oscar Panno. This victory by Kasparov, which lasted 6½ hours, enters the chess record books as one of the more amazing feats by a champion. Here are two games in which Kasparov demolishes strong opposition. Neither of the champion's opponents succeeded in escaping from opening difficulties.

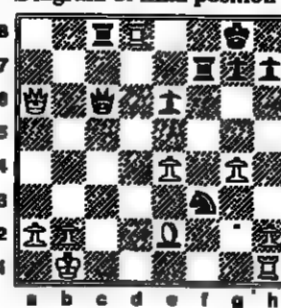
White: Kasparov
Black: Ricardi

Buenos Aires, September 1997

Sicilian Defence

1 e4	c5
2 Nf3	c6
3 d4	cx d4
4 Nxd4	Nf6
5 Nc3	a6
6 Be3	e5
7 Nb3	Bc7
8 B3	Bb6
9 Qx2	d4
10 d4-d5	b5
11 g4	b4
12 Na4	c5
13 Bc3	d4
14 Qxb4	Nc6
15 Bxe7	Oe8
16 Qxd3	Nxe7
17 Nbc5	Ng8
18 c3	Nd7
19 cxd4	ex d4
20 Kb1	Nxc5
21 Nxc5	Qc6

Diagram of final position



White: Kasparov
Black: Spangenberg

Buenos Aires, September 1997

Queen's Gambit Accepted

1 d4	c5
2 Nf3	Nc6
3 c4	cx c4
4 e3	c5
5 Bxc4	c5
6 O-O	a6
7 Bb3	Nd5
8 Nc3	Bc7
9 Qe2	d4
10 Rd1	cx d4
11 Nxd4	Nxd4
12 ex d4	Nd5
13 Qf3	Nxc3
14 Bxc3	Qc7
15 c4	Bd6
16 c5	Ba7
17 Bf4	Qc7
18 Racl	Qc6
19 d5	ex d5
20 Bxd5	Qg6
21 N3	Ra7
22 Qc3	Bf6
23 c6	bx c6
24 Bc4	Bf5
25 Bxd5	Qxd5
26 g4	Black resigns

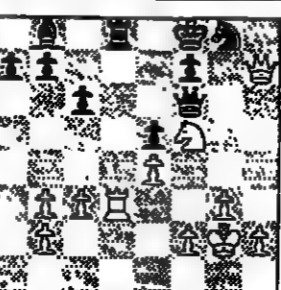
□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Bauer — Lepelletier, France 1997. 1 Rxd5+ Qxd5 2 Qg7+ is a very strong continuation for White which will eventually win. However, when you see a good move, it is often worth looking for a better one. This is what White did here. What did he play?

Solution on page 46



THE BEST OF
BRITISH CUISINE:
CIABATTA,
CHILEAN
CHARDONNAY
& PUNJAB PURI.

Starting this Saturday, see Taste of The Times, a free, six-part, 24-page magazine that celebrates Britain's cosmopolitan food and drink. It's the Arrabbiata to Dandelion of our national diet. Start devouring it this Saturday.

<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

CHANGING TIMES

English game needs European help

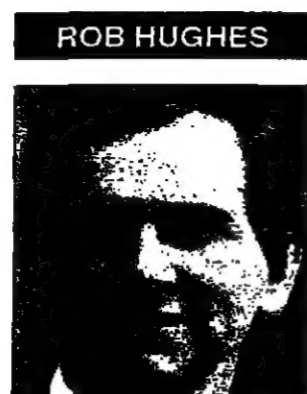
English football stands accused from within of running "a cult of dishonesty". How can we tackle this, throw it forward, clean up the immediate future of a game whose reputation was already deeply stained by the Winchester court case alleging that matches were fixed, which resulted in the acquittal of the goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar and Hans Segers and the centre forward, John Fashanu?

The Football Association has responded with a promise to be seen to be protecting its image. Just as important, since corruption is not a disease that stops at any border or can be effectively quarantined, football's leaders are ready, if called upon, to help England in their hour of need. "We must take any step we can to clean the game," Lennart Johansson, the president of Uefa, the sport's European governing body, said yesterday.

So, Johansson, within a year likely to preside over Fifa, the

game's world governing body, too, places his considerable weight at England's disposal. Keith Wiseman, the FA chairman, and Graham Kelly, the chief executive, arrive in Helsinki today for a Uefa congress and should not hesitate for a moment to put their cards on that table and ask for an effort from the whole Continent to begin the serious assault on the corrosive agents whose thirst for money played a part in the transfer of Ronaldo to Internazionale, even though the player was fulfilled and content — and under contract — at Barcelona.

First, there must be realism. Jimmy Hill, 36 years in the English professional game, insisted on television on Saturday that dishonesty "doesn't go on in any numbers", and that it was the work of newspapers, scurrilously knocking the national game. But Robert Reid, QC, and Rick Parry, the former chief executive of the League, co-authors of the damning 144-page report which took four years to



ROB HUGHES

compile, did not speak of an isolated case of malpractice but "a cult of dishonesty under which many transfers took place with the assistance of agents".

The report detailed incidences of fraudulent invoicing involving such names as Frank McLintock, who has denied any wrongdoing, obviously referring again to the acceptance by George Graham, then the manager of Arsenal, of £425,000 from the

newly relicensed Norwegian agent, Rune Haugue, and to the £50,000 "bung" allegedly involved in the 1992 transfer of Tottenham Hotspur of Teddy Sheringham from Nottingham Forest.

The dossier now handed to the FA is the "bung" report being passed like the buck. As Parry said two years ago, the attempts to get at the truth were bedevilled by "lawyers swarming all over the place".

Indeed, while the FA pledges urgency, how can it do better than the earnest efforts of Parry and Reid? Is it not true that football, like athletics this very summer, is on the run from showing administrative teeth while the lawyers play their own games?

The International Amateur Athletic Federation acquiesced six weeks ago to the drug cheats for fear of being bankrupted by the protracted legal repercussions... and sport and the law, which ought to be the very best of friends, each seeking fair play and equality

under the law, are enemies within each camp.

There is, in London next month, a gathering of those learned gentlemen who love sport just as they cherish their work at the Bar. Whatever they agree, is it not time that football pre-empt future cults of dishonesty? One suggestion is for the game in Nolan Report fashion. A better one is to devise a computer database on which all transfer monies and wages would be registered. Of course, it would be intrusive. Of course, football would cry foul and attempt to run a mile. Of course, those obsequious, murky middlemen would be so exposed as to lose their function.

A far-fetched idea? "My first reaction is that it is a very good idea, that we should look at it immediately," Johansson said. "It could be of great value, after all we are in the modern world and we should use science and technology in a way that helps restore the values of football."

TELEVISION CHOICE

The Fusiliers fall in

Soldier Soldier: Divided We Fall
ITV, 9.00pm

Falling in for a seventh march past, one of the most watchable drama series of the decade. Tonight there is a roster of new faces to add to the familiar ones — such as dishy Jeremy (you'll recall his failed affair with the Colonel's wife) and the likeable newlyweds Private Stacey (Kate O'Malley) and Fusilier Andy Butcher (Dany Cunniff). Among the newcomers the awesome James Cosmo (lead part in Thursday's *The Locksmiths*), and Fusilier Jacko Barton (Tom Craig).



Roy Castle's legacy of hope (ITV, 10.40pm)

Cutting Edge: The Complainers
Channel 4, 9.00pm

The series returns with a typically punchy story about moaners and groaners who actually follow through — and a deeply irritating trio of heroes they are. David Walsh uses his encyclopaedic knowledge of Tesco's products and prices to buttonhole the hapless manager about his "undernourished" cherry pies, "hard" pears, and the like. The manager puts up a brave fight as he and his staff are confronted, yet again, by "The Shopper from Hell". Alan Birkin is a compulsive complainer. "Not enough chips in your takeaway? Send for Birkin. Resent paying for air in your tyres? Birkin's your man. Barry Ritchie is a little different. He runs his own business and is, if you like, the employer from hell. He shouts and publicly insults. His staff wilt...

British Government representatives? Indeed, Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness are now Westminster MPs and it would seem to be the Unionists not Sinn Féin who are holding up the peace talks. How have such changes come about? Is the IRA really on the verge of making a long lasting commitment to peace? *Provos* traces the rise of the Provisional IRA and Sinn Féin from 1969 to the present with first-hand accounts from those involved.

Network First: For The Love Of Roy
ITV, 10.40pm

The series returns with a heart wringer... the many faced entertainer Roy Castle died in 1994 of lung cancer but the irony is that he didn't smoke — the cause was almost certainly passive smoking. Lung cancer, whatever the causes, afflicts 40,000 people each year and only five per cent survive for more than five years. Yet until now there has been no specialist centre anywhere in the world investigating the disease. Castle, though dying, joined forces with Liverpool surgeon Roy Donnelly in a plan to build a research centre in the city. And today it is officially open with almost £9 million behind it. Roy's widow Fiona has taken over the fund raising where her husband left off and this documentary follows her on an "International Tour of Hope" through a dozen countries. Contributors include Sir Harry Scowen and Sir Cliff Clifton. Elizabeth Cowley

Provos: The IRA and Sinn Féin
BBC1, 10.00pm

The estimable Peter Taylor, who has spent 25 years covering the Troubles, is back again to update the situation in Northern Ireland with a four-part series. Says Taylor: "In 1969 the Irish Republican Army was a fading political memory — today it's current leaders, once branded as terrorists, have been to the White House and have negotiated with

RADIO CHOICE

Tales from the Back of Beyond
Radio 4, 10.00am (FM only)

Places from which the international news caravan has long since departed are often rich pickings for fresh eyes and Vietnam, though not exactly ignored since the final US withdrawal in 1975, can be counted among those that warrant our attention. Jon Hassid and John Walsh are the travellers and they discover that the war still dominates life in Vietnam, though not in the way that it occupies the thinking of Europeans and, especially, Americans. The South Vietnamese can now be seen as the victims, for their defeat on the battlefield has been followed by defeat in their attempts to get equal treatment in education and jobs. On another level, the country is westernising at speed, often at a depressingly high cultural cost.

Personal Records
Radio 4, 2.30pm

Return of the series which resembles *Desert Island Discs* without the island or the books. Jeremy Nicholas is the presenter and the format involves rummaging around in the record collection of a famous guest while said guest talks about music and life. Simple idea, works splendidly. Today's guest is Sir Peter Hall, whose record collection is fastidious and organised by genre and then alphabetically. His favourites are opera, unsurprisingly, and jazz, a little surprisingly. He talks about how, when he was a boy, he wanted to be a conductor but at some time point in his teens the obsession became theatre directing. Note those jobs: conducting, directing, not assistant stage manager. Clearly a born leader. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00am Simon Mayo 12.00pm Jo Whiteley 2.00pm Nolly Campbell 4.00pm Mark Gooder 6.15pm Newsbeat 6.30pm Evening Session 8.30pm Update 8.40pm John Peel 10.30pm Mary Anne Hobbes 1.00am Dave Navaro 4.00pm Chris Moyles

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. 6.30am Europe 7.15 The World 7.30 Adopting Attitudes 8.05am Radio 4 8.30am The World 8.15 See It My Way 9.30am Evening Session 10.05am Business 10.15am Revolution 10.30am School for Science 10.45am Sport 11.30am On Screen 12.30pm Adopting Attitudes 1.05pm Business 1.15pm Britain 1.30pm Health 1.45pm Sport 3.05pm Outlook 3.30pm Multitrack 4.05pm Sport 4.15pm See It My Way 4.30pm Greenfield Collection 5.00pm Europe 5.30pm Business 5.45pm Britain 6.15pm The World 6.30pm Waveguide 6.45pm Sport 7.30pm One Planet 8.01pm Outlook 8.25pm Pledge 9.00pm Thought 9.30pm Megamas 10.05pm Business 10.15pm Britain 10.30pm Meridian 11.30pm The World 11.45pm Sport 12.05pm Outlook 12.30pm Megamas 1.30pm Fanning 1.45pm Britain 2.30pm Discovery 3.30pm Meridian 4.05pm Business

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30pm Wogan 9.30pm Ken Bruce 11.30pm Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Dwyer 3.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05pm John Dunn 6.30pm The Big Breakfast 6.40pm Cogan Spectacular 9.00pm Mike 'em Lazer! 9.30pm The Complex: Crosby 10.30pm Richard Ainsworth 12.05pm Steve Macdon 3.00pm Alex Lester

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Alan Mann 8.00am Henry Kelly 1.00pm Listener Request Hour 2.00pm Concerto. Dvorak (Cello Concerto in B minor) 3.00pm Jamie Cull 7.00pm Newsnight 8.00pm Classical (Violin Sonata No 6 in C minor) 8.00pm Evening Concert. Borodin (Quartet No 2) 10.00pm Michael Mappin 2.00pm Concerto (I)

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00am The Magazine 12.00pm Radio 5 News 1.00pm The 5 o'clock News 2.00pm News Extra 7.30pm The Tuesday Lunch 10.00pm News Talk 11.00pm News Extra 12.00am After Hours 2.00pm Up At Night 5.00pm Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

7.00am Russ and Jon's Breakfast Experience 10.00am Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00pm Nicky Horne 7.00pm Nick Abbot 10.00am Mark Forest 2.00pm Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross and Carol McGilton 9.00am Scott Chisholm 12.00pm Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00pm Peter Deely 7.00pm Anna Rastoun 9.00pm James White 1.00pm Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Chopin (Schubert in E flat), Schubert (Karlaria Suite), Beethoven (Overture: The Consecration of the House) 9.00am Morning Collection, with Penny Gore. Komgold (Theme and Variations); Grieg (Lyric Pieces) 10.00am Musical Encounters, with Nicole Heywood. Thomas, Includes Stravinsky (Ebony Concerto); Gounod (Jewel Aria, Faust) 12.00pm Composer of the Week: Pizzetti 1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. A concert given last year in St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Ronald Brautigam, piano. Haydn (Piano Sonata in E minor); Grieg (Piano Sonata in D); (Piano Sonata in G minor); Debussy (Homage to a Haydn); Haydn (Piano Sonata in C) (2/3) (I) 2.00pm The BBC Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Mariss Jansons. With Dmitri Sitkovetsky, violin. Rossini (Overture: William Tell); Brahms (Violin Concerto in D) 4.00pm Voices with Ian Burdick 4.45pm Music Machine, with Verity Sharp 5.00pm In Tune, with Sean Rafferty. Includes the jazz

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00am News 6.10am Farming Today 6.25pm Prayer for the Day 6.30pm 10.45am A Boy at the Hogarth Press (2/5) 6.55pm Weather 8.00am News 9.05am Call Ed Stourton 0171-580 4444. See Choice (6/6) 10.00am Daily Service (LW) 10.15pm On This Day 10.30pm Women's Hour. Jenni Murray talks to the actress Nicola Pagett 11.30am Medicine Now, with Geoff Watts 12.00pm News. You and Yours, with Mark Whitaker 12.25pm Cross-Questioned 12.55pm Weather 1.00pm The World at One, with Nick Clarke at the Liberal Democrats' conference and James Cox in London 1.40pm The Archers (I) 1.55pm Shipping Forecast 2.00pm News, Books and Company (2/3) (I) 2.30pm Personal Records. See Choice 3.00pm The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brennan 4.00pm News 4.45pm Kaleidoscope. Paul Vaughan reads the new Peter Carey novel, Jack Magpie, and considers the Royal Ballet's move

RADIO 5

4.45pm Short Story: Tea in the Heather, by Kate Roberts, translated by Win Griffith 5.00pm 5.30pm Shipping Forecast 5.55pm Weather 6.00pm Six O'Clock News 6.30pm Rent (6/6) (I) 7.00pm News 7.05pm The Archers 7.20pm File on 4. Mark Whitaker examines the Government's zero tolerance policy towards failing schools and inadequate teachers 8.00pm Science Now. Presented by Peter Evans (I) 8.30pm The Firm that Saved Paul Orling goes in search of a species of frog that has disappeared from the northern Australian rainforest 9.00pm In Touch with Peter White 9.30pm Kaleidoscope (I) 9.55pm Weather 10.00pm The World Tonight 10.45pm Book at Bedtime: Littering with Intent. Anna Massey reads Muriel Spark's comic novel (2/10) 11.00pm Medicine Now. The week's events in the media (I) 11.30pm The New Europeans. Keith Aislinn reports from Skopje in Macedonia (5/6) (I) 12.00pm News 12.30pm The Late Book: Light in August, by William Faulkner (2/12) (I) 1.00am As World Service

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SAILING: TIGHT CONTROLS NEEDED AFTER CONGESTED START TO WHITBREAD

Spectator craft pose danger to race yachts

By EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

ACCIDENTS are often said to be "waiting to happen". It does not take much imagination to see that the chaotic start to the Whitbread round-the-world race in the Solent on Sunday could easily have ended in tragedy.

The start was certainly spectacular, with race organisers estimating that more than 4,000 boats of all kinds and sizes were out enjoying wonderful conditions, as the ten-strong fleet of Whitbread 60s surged downwind towards the Needles channel.

At first, there was a reasonable sense of order. Most of the spectator craft kept out of the start box in accordance with widely publicised instructions. However, once the start gun had been fired, mayhem ensued as thousands of motorboats, speed boats, and inflatables swarmed around the racing yachts.

Large motor cruisers were among the pack and even a P&O ferry, the *Pride of Le Havre*, joined the chase at up to 14 knots, out to the west. The already choppy Solent quickly resembled dangerous rapids as thousands of boats jostled for space.

There were two main dangers. First, that someone might be seriously injured or killed in the scrum. In one incident on Sunday, Chris Dickson's *Toshiba* collided with a spectator boat and her boom skimmed over the head of somebody on board the spectator boat. Contact could have been fatal. Had the yachts been going to wind-

ward, short-tacking up the shore, this sort of incident would have been even more likely.

The second danger was that the racing boats themselves might sustain serious damage in a collision and be forced out of the race. With only ten in the fleet, this would have been a disaster for the race as much as for the syndicate concerned.

With entrants having spent millions of pounds and taken more than two years to prepare, it seems ridiculous that state-of-the-art 60s should then have to run the gauntlet of a maelstrom at the start. It was rather like starting a Formula One grand prix with the spectators watching on the track.

Luckily, Sunday passed with few serious problems. *Innovation Kvaerner* tore a spinaker trying to avoid a spectator craft and *Toshiba* may have incurred minor damage. Luck is the key word. No one wants to stop people enjoying one of the great sights of world sailing, but there must be some way of making such events — the start of the Fastnet is another — a little more orderly, particularly as the fleet may be travelling at considerable speed at that point.



Spectator craft mingle with the round-the-world race fleet shortly after the start

There is no easy solution. One option is to enforce an exclusion zone from before the start, not only in the box but also for some distance along a corridor to the west, as was supposed to have happened on Sunday. Spectator craft would then be allowed to follow the race only from a line behind the last yacht in the field. Other spectators could watch from anchored yachts situated in designated areas along the route, as indeed

many did on Sunday. This would clearly protect the racing boats, although it would do little to prevent collisions among the chasing pack. As for the race, the fleet made very fast progress after the start, covering more than 200 miles in the first 11 hours. By last night, however, the yachts were ghosting along at an average speed of six knots off Ushant with just over eight miles separating the leader, *EF Language*, skipped by

Paul Cayard, who led out of the Solent, and the backmarker *BrunelSunery*, skippered by Hans Bouscholte. Last night, the British boat, *Silk Cut*, skippered by Lawrie Smith, was still in fifth place, a position she took up shortly after passing St Alban's Head. Grant Dalton, in *Merit Cup*, in second place, reported a large bunch of seaweed lodged around the keel, but he said his yacht was moving too fast for it to be removed.

HOCKEY

England head towards early exit

England 2
Argentina 5

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

ENGLAND'S hopes of a place in the Junior World Cup semi-finals were hanging by a slender thread yesterday after a crushing defeat by Argentina at Milton Keynes. In their final Pool B match today, England need to beat Pakistan, who earlier yesterday trounced Germany, the holders, 6-2.

After 22 minutes, England were leading 2-1, but they

surrendered their advantage shortly before the interval and lost their way in the second half as Argentina took control. Deambrosi scored with a reverse hit to give Argentina the lead after 17 minutes, but England equalised in the nineteenth minute with a goal by David Matthews from a short corner and, four minutes later, Boyce deflected a free hit by Pearn to put England ahead.

Argentina levelled in the 33rd minute through Orozco, the captain, from a short corner. Their game was transformed in the second half and

n r 's h

city life in Liverpool that was heartwarming rather than depressing, without ever being cloyingly cute or patronising. Julia

Stalk. Last night you had to wait for Envy in slow motion if you wanted to hear the novelist Kathy Lette talking about how she envies single, beautiful, childless women at any kind of normal speech rate. Or maybe she could spread the one-liners out instead, so that we don't get a silver spoon in everyone's bite of the pudding. Noël Coward thought wit should be served in small, delicate portions, not splashed about like marmalade. Lette is a splasher. Still, she is probably a novelist for a reason.

Joe Joseph



it does. And not just a little... It must be something in the air at MTV's offices, because Liam Lynch, a young American student studying at Liverpool, has caught the disease, and he's been in the building for only two minutes. Lynch has been called in because Dougherty liked a puppet film he sent in. The puppets are made of socks, with Lynch's hand stuck inside them. Lynch's equipment is

film that she herself launched her film-making career five years ago by making shorts for MTV. Her film, *A Lady's Guide To Casinos*, was shown on Channel 4 last Christmas and her trademark seems to be to appear in her own films wherever possible. The directors of both films shown so far in the *Picture This* season - which opened last week with Joanna Bailey's documentary *Waiting -* began, and to be continuing, to

the residents of 10 Oxen as a way of fulfilling their dreams and saving themselves from the extortionate interest rates levied by the local loan sharks. Mary Rice was borrowing £100 to throw a surprise birthday party for her husband Carol Rigby was lent £4,000 by the credit union to set up her hair-dressing salon. Their smiles could have illuminated Anfield on an evening fixture. What a pleasant surprise to see a film about inner-

to hear the novelist Kathy Acker talking about how she envies single, beautiful, childless women at any kind of normal speech rate. Or maybe she could spread the one-liners out instead, so that we don't get a silver sixpence in every bite of the pudding. Noël Coward thought wit should be served in small, delicate portions, not splashed about like marmalade. Lettie is a splasher. Still, she's probably a natural for MTV.

... ..

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture, 10.920075 GHz; sound: 7.92 and 7.22 MHz.

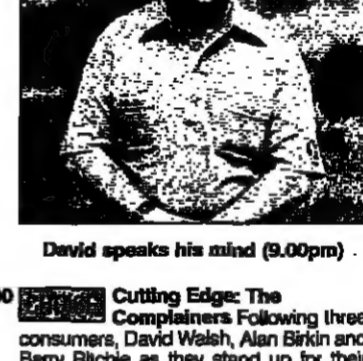
1.00am 5 News Early (7038304)
7.30 USA High (T) (5293385)
1.00 Havaikazoo (3516007)
1.30 Worldwide Effective ways of motivating the workforce (11015) (4965548)
2.00 Express (7588148) 10.00 Exclusive Showbiz (6527304) 10.30 Hot Property (T) (4061192)
3.00 Lizzie Chat show (1198410) 11.50 Double Espresso (68428526)
4.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (3851364) 12.30pm Family Affairs (T) (9608304)
5.00 5 News Update (85772256) 1.05 Susan Beach (T) (838178) 2.05 5's Company (8352439)
6.30 The Hired Hand (1971) A western about a cowboy who goes to work for the wife he left seven years ago. Directed by and starring Peter Fonda. With Warren Oates, Verna Bloom and Larry Hagman. (8435255)
7.20 5's Company - Late Edition (11916965)
8.30 Move on Up Quiz game show (T) (9824781)
9.00 100 Per Cent (9821894)
10.30 Family Affairs Duncan and Claire have a heart-to-heart (T) (8912946)
11.00 Exclusive Julia Bracaday with more showbiz gossip (894217)
12.30 Dragon's Tale A wildlife documentary about tropical fish (98101830)
1.00 Plastic Fantastic! A look at some of the less attractive side-effects of plastic surgery (8803965)
1.30 5 News (8882472)




David Morrissey (9.30pm)



News (T) and weather (17323)
Regional News (T) (824410)



Young to Die? (1989) Juliette I



Castaways Donohoe and Reed (9.00pm)

1.00 **Castaway** (1996) with Oliver Reed and Amanda Donohoe. A fact-based drama about a woman who answered an advertisement put in by a man wanting a female to spend a year on a tropical island with him. Directed by Nicolas Roeg. (#724584)

1.00 **The Jack Docherty Show** Chat and comedy (12.01.762)

1.00 **Police** 11 (8.00pm) (18000128)

4.45am Live and Dangerous Sports magazine (66346881)

1.35 Live and Dangerous: Fútbol Americano
Soccer action from the Latin American leagues (6085366)

1.35 The Streets of San Francisco starring Karl Malden (6327250)

1.30 100 Per Cent (r) (7536786)

g Zone	(1924052)	10.00	Heaven's Bread
53) 3.00	(1934439)	11.00	Kazmer (4939675) 12.00
20) 5.00	Endowment (1922050)	12.20	See also

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RACING 43

Dettori hopes for repeat performance at Ascot Festival

SPORT

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 23 1997

Kite approves Europe captain's Ryder Cup running order

Ballesteros draws first blood

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
AT VALDERRAMA

SEVERIANO Ballesteros, the Spaniard who is captaining Europe, is naturally anxious for his country to look at its best for the Ryder Cup, but the start to the week was ignominious. Ballesteros was explaining that there had been a two-hour delay in his flight from Madrid to Malaga. No sooner had he uttered the words "everything is all right" than the lights went out.

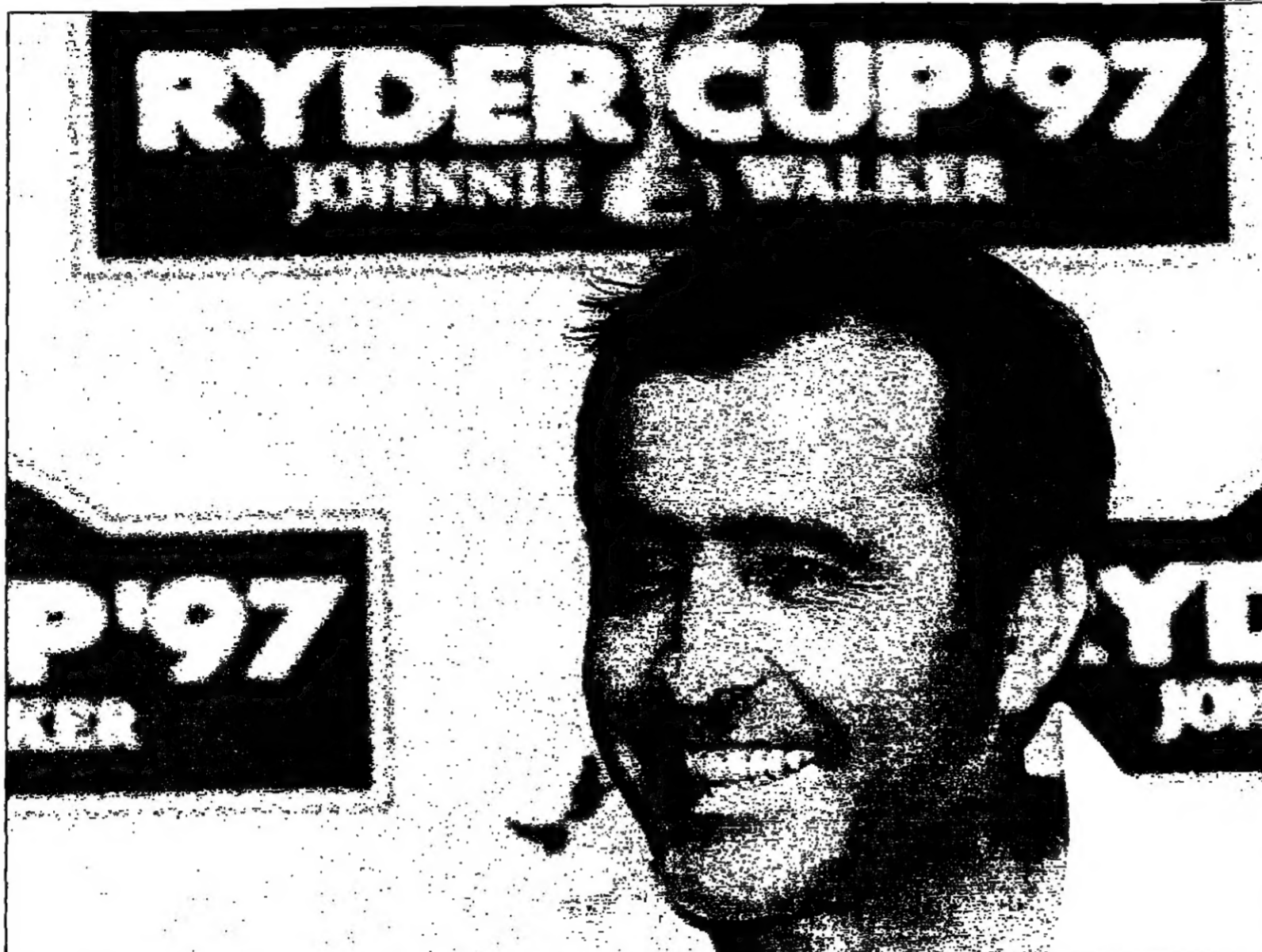
Ballesteros laughed it off. He was in good humour, pleased that the week for which he has been preparing for 1½ years has arrived, although the strangeness of not being a competitor for the first time since 1981 was brought home as he entered the players' locker-room.

Ballesteros had much to be



happy about. Colin Montgomerie announced himself to be in superb form with his play at the Forest of Arden on Sunday, and Thomas Bjorn, of whom Ballesteros spoke very highly, finished well. The two Swedes, Per-Ulrik Johansson, who lives at nearby Aloha golf course, and Jesper Parnevik, who has a flat, half-way away from Johansson, lost no time in going out to practise.

So did Nick Faldo, who arrived on Sunday and spent yesterday morning playing the front nine holes. A quick lunch was followed by an afternoon's practice. All this was done before the rest of the team had landed at Malaga airport and were led off the plane by Montgomerie, carrying the trophy. Another passenger to arrive was Miguel Angel Martin, whose wrist injury led to his exclusion from the team. A forlorn



Ballesteros, confident and relaxed, had plenty to smile about when he arrived at Valderrama yesterday to oversee his team's preparations

figure, he said that he did not know whether he would be at Valderrama to watch, but that he would be making an announcement today.

Another reason for Ballesteros's good humour was the thought that he had gained a tactical victory over Tom Kite, the United States captain. Ballesteros has persuaded Kite to play the four-balls, not the foursomes, first on each of the opening two days, as has happened in the past two competitions.

Ballesteros has worked out

that Europe does better in four-balls than foursomes. He has discovered that, in the past seven Ryder Cups, Europe have lost the first-day four-balls only once, whereas they have never won the foursomes. He reasons that, if Europe play to form in the four-balls, then their success will help them to improve their record in the foursomes. It may go horribly wrong, of course, but it proves that the captain has done his homework. Furthermore, Ballesteros wants to avoid any of his pairings being involved in a long, tiring match on Saturday afternoon, when the fatigue will be building up and the singles lie ahead.

Ballesteros, someone once pointed out, always has a

reason for doing things, though it is not always clear what that reason is. "It is my intention that every player will play at least once before the singles," Ballesteros said yesterday. He did not need to stress the words "it is my intention" because if anyone is courageous enough to deny a player a game until the Sunday because he is not playing well, it is Ballesteros.

He has revealed a little of his thinking with his pairings for practice today. Montgomerie will play with Darren Clarke, thereby combining Clarke's brawn and length with Montgomerie's velvet touch. The men like each other and it was some remarks made by Montgomerie to the big Ulsterman that

convinced Clarke that he was good enough to be in this team.

The Swedes will play together — no surprise there — and Ignacio Garrido will play with Faldo and Costantino Rocca with José María Olazábal. One can imagine how much help Faldo will give to Garrido, the more so now that Faldo realises how much the helping of others is a part of a competition such as this. One can imagine Rocca and Faldo being paired together later to allow the two Spaniards a chance to see how they get on together.

Finally, Ian Woosnam will lead Lee Westwood through the first-day practice at his first Ryder Cup. If Westwood performs half as well as Peter

Baker, another debutant, did when he played with Woosnam in 1993, then Europe will be handsomely rewarded. Baker and Woosnam played together twice and won both matches, and then Baker defeated Corey Pavin in the singles.

Ballesteros was asked if he was nervous. He held up a glass by way of reply to indicate that his hand was steady. "People get nervous when they are not confident, are not sure of what they are doing," he said. "I have tremendous confidence, not only in myself but in my team. Everything is under control." By then, the lights had come back on and everything did indeed seem to be under control. Long may it last.

Woes continue as Harlequins cite player for stamping

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHILE officials of the European Rugby Cup Ltd (ERC) were locked in debate in Dublin yesterday over whether sanctions should be taken against Brive and Pontypridd after their fractious Heineken Cup match ten days ago, another grievance was being dumped on their doorstep.

The citing procedure, generally still mistrusted in Britain, has been adopted by Harlequins after their cup match with Cardiff on Sunday.

On a weekend when civil behaviour was all the rage elsewhere, the London club have cited Tony Rees for dangerous play. The irony is that, before his transfer to Cardiff during the summer, Rees, 32, was a lock forward with Brive, over whose head the threat of punishment still hangs.

After studying the match video, Andy Keast, the Harlequins director of rugby, has cited Rees for an alleged stamping incident involving Gareth Llewellyn, the Wales lock. His complaint goes to Roger Pickering, the ERC chief executive, but will have to wait in the queue until the competition's management board tidies up the loose ends of the violent Brive-Pontypridd game, which was made worse by the bar-room brawl in the town centre that followed.

Pickering interviewed representatives of both clubs last week and recommended sanctions when the 12-man board met at midday yesterday.

These were believed to involve the possibility of fines and playing the return match, due to be staged at Sardis Road on Saturday, at a neutral venue, but they wanted to communicate their decision to Brive and Pontypridd before making an announcement.

Jean-Jacques Madrias, the Brive vice-president, had to leave before the meeting ended and Pontypridd had already decided to make their statement this morning. But it is not only the specific circumstances of the Brive-Pontypridd game that concerned the board but the management of cup games generally which, for an increasingly high-profile competition, remain badly controlled.

Despite the regulations,

coaches are seen regularly on the touchlines along with replacements, quite obviously communicating with their players.

Their actions have the capacity to inflame the crowds, if they believe their team to be suffering an injustice, while the presence of replacement players, stripped for action, can create further confusion. Match officials, for example, clearly could not keep up with events on Sunday in Cardiff when Luke Cross, the Harlequins lock, overstayed his welcome as a replacement.

ERC themselves should have far greater powers of review, according to Marcel Martin, the former French federation official, who was so active in establishing the tournament three years ago. Martin also believes that match commissioners should be far more authoritative figures



Rees: video studied

than they are, in many cases, and that referees should use the power invested in them by the laws of the game to damp down potential flashpoints.

On the evidence of the spirit in which the cup games were played at the weekend, the teams involved, regardless of nationality, would appear to have the capacity to play entertaining, controlled rugby — none more than Brive in their epic match with Bath. The sadness for rugby is that they should not have needed the example of the Brive-Pontypridd encounter, which also featured some compelling rugby, to prove it.

England nucleus, page 45

Uefa bans Anderlecht from Europe

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ANDERLECHT yesterday paid the price for admitting that they bribed the referee of their Uefa Cup semi-final against Nottingham Forest 13 years ago. The Belgian club will be banned from the next European competition for which they qualify.

Uefa, who had previously said that it could do nothing because the offence had been committed more than ten years ago,

announced the ban in Helsinki yesterday. European football's governing body has taken the action after admissions by Roger Vanden Stock, the Anderlecht chairman, that the club, under his father's chairmanship, paid £20,000 to the Spanish referee after the second leg of the semi-final in 1984.

Vanden Stock said that his father, Constant, had paid Guruceta Muro "a loan" of one million francs (about £20,000) the day after Anderlecht had

gone through 3-2 on aggregate after losing the first leg 2-0. Television replays showed that a goal scored by Forest was legitimate.

Bruce Grobbelaar joined Sheffield Wednesday on a three-month contract yesterday. The former Liverpool goalkeeper, 39, has been on a week-to-week contract with Oxford United. David Platt, the Wednesday manager, contacted Grobbelaar after Kevin Pressman suffered a groin injury on Saturday.

Eubank back with new punchline

I will take more than a blow from American Express to put Chris Eubank down. Yesterday he was back in town, putting on the style. As any millionaire will tell you: "When you're down on your back, just keep on looking a million dollars and keep on smiling." That's exactly what the former World Boxing Organisation (WBO) super-middleweight champion did at a press conference in the West End to announce his plans under the banner of his new promoter, Frank Warren.

If Eubank had money problems, you would not have known it. He is still the best-dressed man in Britain, with his gold-topped cane and monocle. "I'm just going to relax and smile, smile, smile," he said. Cashflow problems or not, he appeared to have not thought too deeply about the traffic flow around Piccadilly Circus as he arrived in his huge gleaming £100,000 Peterbilt truck.

Even as Eubank talked about his plans of becoming a world champion again, though, traffic wardens were making an assault on the juggernaut. What was a £60 fine, though, to a man who

Srikumar Sen hears a former world champion's plans for his return to boxing

had just seen off American Express, paying off a debt of £120,000 after being threatened with court action? "They were trigger-happy," Eubank said. The American Express situation will all be explained in an exclusive in a newspaper very soon.

Curiously, even though Eubank missed the "showing off" during his two-year absence from the ring in Britain, he did not mind being second, or even third, best. "Naseem Hamed, if he could get the public to part with their money to give him back his big-spending lifestyle," Naseem Hamed makes contact with the younger generation; I make contact with older and middle-aged people," he said.

Eubank has even come to love the sport that he once hated and called barbaric. "That was when I was doing too much," he said. "Now I

love boxing. I'm here for fun." He is in the process of signing a contract with Warren that could earn him £10 million over three years.

Eubank will have his first bout against Mark Prince, of Tottenham, and will be competing as a light-heavyweight for Prince's WBO inter-continental championship on the undercard of Hamed's WBO featherweight title defence in Sheffield on October 11. Eubank's bout will be the third feature behind the contest between Steve Collins, the WBO super-middleweight champion, and Joe Calzaghe, of Wales.

"In the past, I always wanted to please myself," Eubank said. "But now I'm going to please the fans. To do that, I'm prepared to fight the best in the world." Warren said that, if Eubank kept on winning and selling tickets, he could keep on providing the opportunities for him. "I will definitely get him a world title fight ready soon, but the fight I most want to make is with Roy Jones. Jones does not mind coming to London, so that could happen at an outdoor venue next summer."



Eubank stops the traffic in London yesterday

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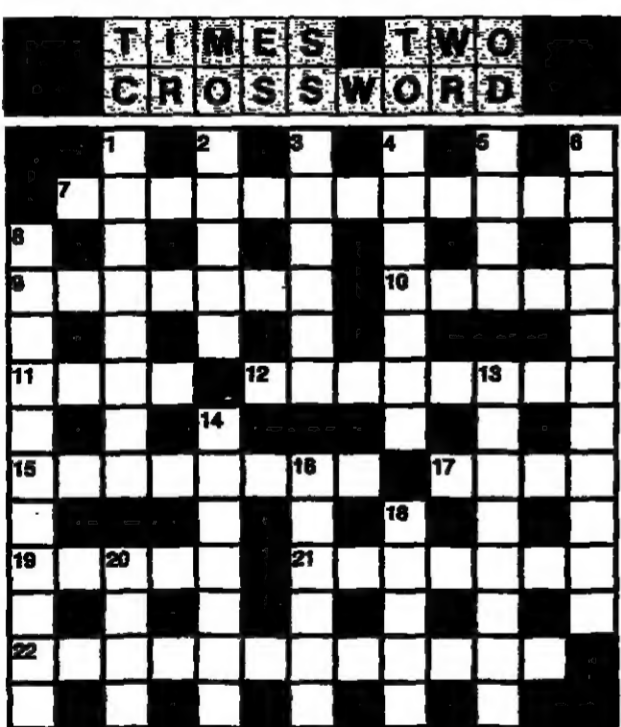
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No 1206

ACROSS

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(7,5)
9 Minor illness (7)
10 Hard-kin fruit has bottle variety (5)
11 Jacob took his birthright (4)
12 Rotation (8)
13 Talking no notice (8)
17 Gust: a pastry (4)
19 Manservant, steward (5)
21 Fr. pilgrimage town (7)
22 —, wear it! (2,3,4)

DOWN

- 1 Give-away (4-4)
2 As best laid schemes oft
(5)
3 To some extent: attractive (6)
4 Jell: start to set (7)
5 Home of Lucas, Paddington Bear (4)
6 Inflexible (rule) (4-3-4)
8 Become a nun (4,3,4)
13 Overwhelm with water (8)
14 Be nervous: a bet (7)
16 Deep bow (6)
18 Prominent up-brushed tuft (5)
20 One from Riga (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1205

ACROSS: 1 Calamity 5 Help 9 Pick and choose
10 Nerd 11 Upwards 13 Resort 15 Pauper 18 Drugged
20 Lass 23 Take lying down 24 Rule 25 Recovery
DOWN: 1 Copy 2 Lucie 3 Meander 4 Tedium 6 Ego-
trip 7 Pleasure 8 Thaw 12 Creditor 14 Snorkel
16 Allegro 17 Advice 19 Pull 21 Shove 22 Envy

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